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The ELMSWELL Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2001

..... Your Parish Matters

Our cover pictures shows



"... Welcome to Elmswell, Kid"

... See "COMMENT", page 1

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**This Month's
"COMMENT"**

The same Press which dubbed Elmswell, 'The Village From Hell,' were present for the tenth successive year as the community came together as the Autumn Fayre. This time they liked what they saw.

Despite the alternative attractions of Rougham's balloons (they're changing their date for next year) some 2,000 people came in a continuous stream from noon until 3.30.

This year's fairground rides included a giant helter-skelter which set the scene near to the entrance where stood the Elmswell Fire Engine and crew – both looking immaculately capable. Then, 'stalls galore,' as promised, with Village organisations well represented...Football Club, Helping Hand & Luncheon Club, the Churches, Toddlers...all seizing the opportunity to boost their funds. More stalls inside including the magician offering a trick to all who passed at no charge (he just likes doing tricks) and the Kiln Meadow Wildlife group with their comprehensive exhibition of the site and their work, right down to the video of their 'camera in a nestbox' scheme, said by far too many visitors to the stall to be, 'a real tweet.'

There were two performance spaces. In the wrestling ring were held demonstrations of kick boxing proving, particularly in the bout involving a prominently pregnant young lady, that the benefits of fitness and suppleness enjoyed by proponents of this fascinating discipline went beyond the macho. Later the wrestlers claimed their territory and Good fought Evil for the hearts of the crowd. It was Medieval, frenetic, and looked dangerous, but nastiness didn't pay and the wholesome, good looking fair-minded chaps triumphed.

The main arena hosted the traditional parade of vintage vehicles and the band of the Stowmarket Boys' Brigade Seniors before a fine display of terrier racing proved the worth of the breed as they took on all comers. Visiting 'big dogs' did not always grasp the point of the exercise, at one stage assuming that their smaller hosts might make a tasty snack, but order was restored before the Tug-of-War rope was brought out. The boys versus the girls...lots of boys, all undeniably boys, but the girls? Some larger, hairier girls were in evidence with a laddish, beery air to their efforts. But, the Ref.'s word is law and he adjudged the contest not only fair, but well won by the girls.

This year's main attraction was provided by a resident, for The Kangaroo Kid

has recently moved into Ashfield Road from where he takes his spectacular quad bike stunt show all over the world. Just for the neighbours, and waiving his usual fee, the Kid performed for 45 minutes a breathtaking display of acrobatics with a constant running commentary over his radio microphone. Wheelies? Simple! But with five people on the bike...for 50 yards at 60 m.p.h.? Jumping the whole of the Tavern Football Team was just a warm up – and some of them looked decidedly warm before the Kid's leap - a rehearsal for the finale. It did not look possible as the Elmswell Crew drove their fire engine into the arena, but, after one or two breathtaking false starts, our neighbour powered up the ramp and over. To much relief, until the firemen turned their machine end-on and he did it again. Welcome to Elmswell!

The business of a Fayre is not carried out in episodes. It takes on a life of its own...Margaret's Bistro serving teas non-stop, the catering stalls with just enough queue to suggest that it's worth the wait, the hog roast selling out yet again, the Grand Draw from Paul's Co-op milk float, Andy's bar offering social lubrication. And the car parking, money taking, programme selling stewards who often miss the fun in their devotion to their task. Philip Shaw gently prodding the thing along over the public address system and, in the bowels of the organisation, Roger Dalby marshalling the money. Terry Southgate and Peter Edmonds knitting the whole event together – a job they started immediately last year's event was put to bed. The army of the unmentioned, all doing their bit.

The money is a bit of an excuse, really. There are other benefits to make the day worthwhile. Friendships and acquaintances made and renewed – networking across a broader range of the village people and organisations than is possible anywhere else throughout the year. All come and gone in a day. A very good day indeed.

The Autumn Fayre is held under the auspices of the Elmswell Amenities Association which is Registered Charity No. 304879.

Your views and comments on this or any of the Newsletter items are welcome to our 'Letters' page clo Gobblins, Station Road Industrial Estate, IP30 9HR.

The deadline for the next issue is 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday 10th October 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.

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Around and About ...

TODDLERS

Despite all our positive thoughts we could not stop the downpour on Sunday



12th August - the day of our planned BBQ. So we postponed it till the Wednesday early evening and were blessed with incredible sunshine! The whole event went from being a total washout to a complete success - with special thanks to Mark and Elizabeth for cooking in such extreme heat. All the children had a great time on the bouncy castle and all the adults - mums and dads had a wonderful time lounging in the shade.

Our next event - the Teddy Bears Picnic was also on a hot day and it was incredible how much energy all the children had for the parachute games, and the egg and spoon races carried on till the eggs gave up on us - even hard boiled ones couldn't take the pressure any longer. Jackie Denial won the guess the number of sweets on the cake competition - many of us were about a hundred out, amazing how quickly they were all eaten though.

Our next major event is the Nearly New Sale on Saturday 22nd September at the Wesley Hall in School Road from 2 till 4pm. These sales seem to get better each time so if you have any clothes or toys your little treasures have outgrown give Alex a call on 244692 and she will tell you about selling them, and of course all those wonderful items need to go to a good home so come along and bag a bargain.

Also in September (Sunday 30th) we have a treasure trail around the village, and in October another of our very sociable pot luck suppers. If you haven't been before please come along and join us, we are a friendly group meeting on Mondays 1.30 to 3.00pm and on Wednesdays 10 to 11.30am at the Wesley Hall, School Road. We have a range of toys and activities to suit children from birth to 4, and events throughout the year - (see the What's On section) - it only costs 80p a session which includes refreshments and your first visit is free! **For more information please contact Alex Bartholomew (244692) or Elizabeth French (244229).**



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Around and About cont'd., pg3

ELMSWELL BOWLS CLUB

August Fixture Results

Monday 'A' League

Needham

Market 'A' 69 Elmswell 'A' 80
Elmswell 'A' 98 Gislingham 57

Monday 'B' League

Elmswell 'B' 48 Stanton 92
St Botolphs 87 Elmswell 'B' 53

Wednesday League

Thorndon 63 Elmswell 'A' 66
Elmswell 'A' 54 St Botolphs 79
Haughley 77 Elmswell 'A' 62
Rookery 66 Elmswell 'A' 60
Elmswell 'A' 57 Bildeston 74
Elmswell 'A' 72 Woodfield 'A' 67

Thursday League

Elmswell 'B' 96 Needham Market 40
Meadlands 36 Elmswell 'B' 57
Elmswell 'B' 85 Stowupland 52
Earl Stonham 58 Elmswell 'B' 79
Elmswell 'B' 55 Debenham 69

Bullen Cup

Elmswell 62 Thornham Magna 77

Tuesday Afternoon League - Friendly Match

Elmswell 'A' 57 Elmswell 'B' 90



thoroughly enjoyed it.

Now for another two new events happening at the beginning of October. On 7th October we have our harvest services. We have moved it this year so that we can incorporate another first for the chapel, a parade service. Give us a look at 11am, along with the village's scouts, guides, beavers and brownies. It will be a harvest/parade service with a difference, I shall be taking it so expect the unexpected. At 6.30pm we shall continue our harvest celebrations by holding our regular songs of praise evenings. Come along; learn some new songs, as well of course as singing the more traditional ones, including of course 'we plough the fields'.

The following weekend on 13th October we shall be holding a special supper at 7pm. If you have been watching the Alpha course on ITV1 as it is now called, (see I am up with today's technological advances), although I doubt it as it is shown around midnight, then you may be interested in attending. If you want to find out what the course involves, have seen it on TV, want to take part, then give this a look. We shall be having a meal, chat, and watch a short video on what the course involves. This is a no commitment, no obligation, no-one will attempt to 'save' or 'convert' you, it's just a chance for you to find out what is sweeping the country at present and answer any questions you may have. If you want to know more then contact Tony on 241541, and let us know you are interested, we can send you more info, and it will help us know how many people we are catering for. This event is specifically for people that have no connection with the church, but are interested in looking into its point today,

ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

A lot to get through this month, so no waffle this time -

Firstly thanks to all those who took part in the football training sessions, I know you enjoyed it. Don would like to thank everyone for the cards and presents you gave and I would like to thank him for the time and effort he put into each session. I got worn out just collecting the discs he laid down for the touchline, and I know everyone who took part

Around and About cont'd., pg5

so please come and enjoy our food and company, and we shall enjoy yours.

Our Trailblazers re-starts its autumn term from 9th September at 9.45am. A new session, so give us a look if you are aged between 5-13.

The Ladies will meet up again on 1st October at 7.45pm, so if you think you are a lady, then come along, I am sure it will be a good evening (yes, I must get another programme and a longer memory).

Oh well, I haven't room to insult the cricket club this month, we must be busy. See you soon, if not before.

Mark

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.

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

W.I.

In July a mystery coach tour ended at Culford School where we were shown around the main house and grounds and told some of the history of the school and previous tenants. Our August meeting was organised by members, a Beetle Drive and quiz creating much

UNCLAIMED PRIZE from the Grand Draw at the Autumn Fayre

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Sarah on 242316.

LOST PROPERTY AT THE FAYRE

- Blue asthma inhaler
- blue denim child's purse

Around and About cont'd., pg7

laughter and noise.

Some members supported a fund raising event in aid of the Bury Children's Hospice, an entertaining cookery demonstration followed by a quiz and cream tea, held in the beautiful grounds belonging to an Ixworth WI member.

In August we were sad to say goodbye to our hard working Secretary Sandra Peagan, who is moving to Whitby in Yorkshire with her family. We wish them well and some of us hope to visit their new bed and breakfast enterprise in the near future.

On the second Thursday in September we again hold our Harvest Supper, no doubt everyone will enjoy the wonderful food provided by the Committee.

Why not come and join us?

Jeanne Crook (01359 241591)

ELMSWELL GARDENING CLUB



I expect that half of Elmswell is too young to remember the thrill and excitement of the Sunday School outing, but that was the atmosphere on the full coach that left the Memorial Hall on Saturday August 4th as members and friends set off for a day around the house and gardens of Blickling Hall, deep in the heart of North Norfolk and what a wonderful house and gardens we found, the house having been in the care of the National Trust for many years and was in very good state of repair, and the Herbaceous garden was possibly the best to be seen anywhere. By leaving time the coach was full of foot weary visitors, but before leaving Blickling we had the now customary Lucky Draw which was done in true Miss World tradition with Mrs Jeanne Crook winning first prize Mrs Ward from Thurston with second prize, and Mrs Joan Davidson collecting third prize, all the prizes being a small memento of their day out, and all the feed back so far suggests a very good time was had by all. Now do not forget that our next meeting will be on September 20th when we have invited Mr Peter Fisk along to give a talk on Vegetables and how to grow them, and as you possibly know Peter is a Champion Gardener having won many awards at village, county and national level, so he has a lot of knowledge and advice to give, and he will be doing all that in the Exchange Hall School Road at 8.00pm on the 20th September, see you all there.

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Around and About cont'd., pg9

ELMSWELL CRICKET CLUB

Sponsored by Manvers Triumph



What happened to August? I know it was there because it said so on our fixture list. However, while the weekdays were OK, Sundays seemed to be reserved for rain of near-Biblical proportions. The result? Well, the bad news is we haven't played a single game since the last issue of this newsletter. Good news is we've stayed second and are just one game away from promotion. One professional, focused performance and we're there...so don't hold your breath!

The other news, of course, is that we went to the Fayre and must thank all of you who supported our efforts. As ever, we're very grateful to you, not least to those kind souls who donated crockery so that others could spend money smashing it! And speaking of old crocks (you know who you are)... Does this ring any bells?

As each cricketing year draws to an unceremonious end a player who is struggling begins to wonder if this may be more than just a bad season. Perhaps such talent as he possessed has deserted him - for good. Perhaps he isn't just out-

of-touch? Perhaps this is the end - and everyone else in the Club has come to the same conclusion. Is he, the weakest link? A bowler who used to take wickets now struggles to dismiss anyone past puberty. A batsman who could be relied upon for a quick 15 now fails to last an over. Why can't he do it anymore? The eyes of team-mates, meanwhile drift inexorably to his midriff, where rests the evidence of a thousand business lunches. Cruelly planted behind a desk or the wheel of his company car for two-thirds of his waking hours, his youthful vitality has trickled away accompanied, in many cases, by his hair. Where once a proud team of chest-thumping supermen strode on to the pitch there is now a paunchy, sad, dome-headed array of old crocks, quietly wheezing and spluttering as they limp out, heads bowed. On the sidelines, of course, sit wives and girlfriends looking worried. After all, the average age of the side is only thirty-five.

Anyway, while it's funny when this happens to someone else, it's a disaster if it happens to you. For years you've accepted your limitations as a village cricketer. Now you've reached that life-changing moment. With physical prowess inextricably tied up with machismo, a loss of this kind is like being

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Around and About cont'd., pg10

athletically Bobbitted, without anaesthetic ...and with all your friends watching! It takes a while to sink in. You start wondering out loud why '...it's not quite working today'. Team-mates, in the knowledge that this will be their fate one day, fail to mention the mound of blubber now holding up the trousers, let alone the bingo wings and the recent appearance of mighty love handles just above the generously proportioned buttocks.

Much as you try, you can't ignore age and decay indefinitely, Old age is in the mind, they say. In Elmswell it's also in the knees, in the eyes and in the pub after the game. It's hard to accept. It's so unfair. Probably none of this would matter if we kept ourselves fit. But we are cricketers. We don't do 'fit'. If

anything, we play village cricket to *avoid* keeping fit. Fitness for Elmswell players is an optional extra - nice to have but far less important than clean white trousers or a Cadbury's choc-roll at tea. We lead sedentary lives and are proud of it. Now, where once stood a bright, wiry, energetic character, bursting with ambition reclines a man for whom years of pub and Indian meals, cheap red wine and 2.00pm lie-ins have altered his body chemistry at the molecular level. After an averagely excessive pre-match lunch his face acquires a purple tinge that clashes horribly with his bloodshot eyes. In the face of constant media pressure to 'live a healthier lifestyle', he is a shining example to us all...! After you with the razor blade Wink... Graham, Ron, Nigel, Deano, Steve, Andy, David (Royal), Wiggy. Then again, maybe just one more year...?

By the way, we have a jumble sale in October (please see the separate advert). Apart from redundant players, bats, pads, etc. we'd like to be able to sell other things to people. If you have any items to dispose of we'd be very pleased to take them off your hands. Please call myself, Graham Newman (240846) or David Peachey (242622). Thank you.

Doug Reed, Club Secretary
(Tel: 241009)

PS: Mark, Baptists - know you like football. You interested in other sports, 'cos there's a big fight coming up? Apparently, at the weigh-in, Goliath tipped the scales at 15 stone 3lbs and David at 14 stone 3lbs? David's manager said "The odd stone could make all the difference."



Guus Hamel
Garden Design
01359- 244213
E-mail: guushamel@aol.com

Around and About cont'd., pg13

Elmswell CC Century Club:

July Draw

£15 to D Wiggins (95); £10 to L Linnett (28), and £5 to L Reed (55).

HELPING HAND CLUB



Our August 16th meeting was a tea, bingo and chat evening which we don't seem to have many of these days. On August 30th we had a visit from Mr Dave Gilson, a Police Officer from Stowmarket, who gave us a very interesting talk on so many ways we can help to improve our safety, especially in the home. His talk was greatly appreciated and enjoyed by everyone present.

Many thanks to everyone who supported our tombola stall at the Autumn Fayre and to all the kind people who donated prizes. Special thanks to Muriel Grant, Malcolm and all the committee members and club members who worked on the stall on the day.

In September we have our trip to Felixstowc for The Olde Tyme Music Hall and our Harvest Supper. Until next month. Best wishes.

Stan

METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES

September sees the start of our Autumn Activities once more. The Ladies Fellowship at 2.45 on Tuesdays with the Exchange Club taking that slot on the third Tuesday of each month.

Our new Minister, Rev Stephen Yelland and his family are now in residence at Stowmarket and we look forward to our

Harvest Thanksgiving Service on 16th September when he will conduct our worship.

On 21st, Friday, all three of our village churches join together for the Annual Harvest Supper in our Wesley Hall at 7pm.

The preachers planned to lead our Sunday Services at 10.45am are:

Sept 16	Rev Stephen Yelland
Sept 23	Rev Alan Stephens
Sept 30	Rev Keith Horton
Oct 7	Mr Stephen Roe
Oct 14	Mr John Goddard

ST JOHN'S CHURCH SERVICES etc.

Sunday 16 September

10.30am Holy Communion

Friday 21 September

6.45 for 7pm Elmswell Fellowship of Churches Harvest Supper in Wesley Hall, School Road **Speaker Eldred Wiley of Christian Aid**

Sunday 23 September

10.30am Morning Prayer

11.30am Holy Communion

Friday 28 September

Macmillan Coffee Morning 10am-12noon in Church Room

Saturday 29 September

Gift Day - Church open 11am-1pm

Sunday 30 September

10.30am Harvest Thanksgiving

11.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Praise

Around and About cont'd., pg 14

Sunday 7 October

- 9.30am Family Service with Music Group
10.30am Morning Prayer
11.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 14 October

- 8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Parish Praise

Sunday School recommences Sunday 16 September at 10.30am and is held every Sunday except 1st Sunday in month.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH FLOODLIGHTING

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

September 2001 Sponsorships

- 4 always remembered. Andrew Jones.
6 in loving memory of Kay Owen.
6-10 Dr & Mrs Dodds
10-13 in loving memory of Gary Ferguson Sadly missed and never forgotten.
15 in memory of Leslie Bloomfield, a dear husband and father.
16 in memory of William Victor Manning.
18 Anne & Dave Hollings.
19 in memory of dear Tess. Margaret Palmer.
23 in memory of Ricky Woolnough.
29 in memory of Berry Peachey.

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

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KILN MEADOW

If you were able to visit our display at the Autumn Fayre, you will have seen the Certificate of Commendation that I was privileged to accept from E.A.D.T., on behalf of the village, for The Wildflower 2001 Competition at the site. May I also thank you for the support and interest shown at the Autumn Fayre, £128.51 was raised through the raffle, the prizes being donated by volunteers and local businesses.

I would like to extend our thanks to all the hard work that the Amenities Association have done to make this event possible. Keep up the good work, it is appreciated by many far and wide. We hope to be there next year with our display again.

Once again **BIG THANKS**
Alan Thompson

ELMSWELL F.C.

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Amenities Association AGM

The Association held its Annual General Meeting, much delayed due to the Fraud Squad raid, on 5th September, in the old Library for the last time!

58 members of the public attended, despite an element of competition from Michael Owen & Co. They elected a Committee for the coming year, received the accounts for the year 2000/2001 from Treasurer Alan Sparrow and the Chairman's Report which, the meeting decided, should be submitted for publication in the Newsletter unedited.

Chairman's Report to the AGM of the Elmswell Amenities Association (Reg. Charity No. 304879) 5/9/01

The Management Committee has met four times since the last AGM in March 2000.

An unfortunately large proportion of the time devoted by the volunteer Trustees at these meetings has had to be spent warding off the attacks waged on the Association by the Parish Council. The Council's actions and policies accord entirely with the statement of the Parish Council Chairman to the Annual Meeting in May 2000, that the Amenities Association should 'throw off their level of dependence on the Parish Council,' and to his previous contention that there was 'too much done on trust in this village.'

Three major assaults were staged.

An extraordinary Parish Council Meeting on 25th September 2000 dealt with Councillors' perceptions of the content of the Newsletter and concluded that, 'the new library is just rumour and hearsay,' and that 'There was no need to invite the Amenities Association to a Parish Council meeting.' Much bad feeling was generated by the tone of this meeting at which a proposal was passed requiring the Clerk, Chairman and Vice Chairman to write to the Association outlining their concerns. This proposal was never implemented.

The Parish Council Chairman, Cllr David Marriott, called a Parish Meeting on 9th March 2001 to reinforce the Council's decision to object to the planning application for the Association's proposed new library development. The meeting was well attended and, again, very heated and ill tempered. It vociferously and very decisively backed the Association's plans and the Parish Council subsequently made a supportive statement to the relevant Mid Suffolk District Council Committee which, nevertheless, had before it, the Parish Council's reasoned and lengthy objections. Planning permission was granted.

On 7th December 2000 houses and premises belonging to various Trustees were the subject of a raid by the Suffolk Constabulary Fraud Squad acting, their correspondence confirms, on a complaint made by, 'officials of the Elmswell Parish Council.' Serious disruption was caused by the seizure of a massive amount of the Association's files and paperwork, just one consequence of which has been the delay of this meeting. Cllr David Marriott has owned up to being one of the Councillors involved. The Police confirmed that there was one other whom they will not name and who will not admit his complicity. The outcome of the thorough investigation was that there was, 'no indication of criminal activity.' This was confirmed on 17th June and the documents returned on 26th June, allowing for some 7 months of severe administrative difficulty, personal upset and community outrage.

At a meeting in the library with two representatives of the Charity Commissioners on 24th July the 22 Trustees present, made their case – accepting an element of slack management on the part of the volunteers handling the ever increasing workload presented by the administration of the Newsletter advertising and emphasising the fact that, in the Council's own words, 'there...had...been no written communication between the Parish Council and the Amenities association,' prior to their fruitless, ill-considered and draconian move which clearly sought to use their position of public office to reinforce their implausible case. All Trustees were copied the Commissioners' response expressing satisfaction that the underlying procedural weaknesses had been adequately addressed. This is, of course, confirmed in the accounts presented to this meeting.

There has been a constant barrage of minor sniping and irritation from the Parish Council throughout the past eighteen months – from their reports to the press that the Association was failing in its duty to provide adequate toilet facilities for Suffolk County Council Libraries Department, there being, of course, no such obligation, to the more recent refusal to repay £2,000 deposited with the Council as pump-priming for further grant aid towards a long defunct scheme for public toilets and a pavilion adjacent to the bowls green at Blackbourne, which intransigence has forced the Trustees to sue for the money.

Meanwhile, I am extremely proud to say that those same Trustees, with considerable community support, have not faltered in their determination to do their best for Elmswell. Two Fayres and a Quiz have taken place and have been resoundingly successful as well as profitable. The children's music group Dominote has thrived under the guidance of the Association which acted as host for a £5,000 Millennium Award to establish the children on a firm footing for many years to come. The Luncheon Club has, similarly benefited from the Association's support and assistance during their own acrimonious split from any dealings with the Council, and is now thriving with an increased membership.

A seat was provided at Manns Court by fund-raising co-ordinated by the Association and further help is pledged in that direction by the Trustees having agreed to underwrite the refurbishment of an electric scooter for use by any of the less mobile residents. Rex Durham was given assistance and grant aid in his battle to have a new Village Green established at Pightle Close, and this battle continues. The Newsletter continues to flourish and might benefit from any tips which might be picked up from the recently published rival magazine which enjoys full public funding.

And the new library is built. It will be officially opened later this month with a community opening event in October. The Association will have some £100,000 to invest for the pursuit of its charitable objects and will be in receipt of a worthwhile regular rental income with few consequential outgoings. A small working group is designing a Memorial Garden for Trustees approval.

The last eighteen months have been traumatic for the Association, for the community of Elmswell and for many hard working and sincere individuals within our community who cannot understand why their best is, in some eyes, not good enough. I sincerely hope that they can stay on board long enough to see out the current rough passage until we get back to quieter, more temperate and more humane attitudes from those in power over us.

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“...Show your strength and say no...”

Re: the development at Elmswell Station.

I feel the monstrosity that is proposed should be resisted by all residents of this village. One or two houses perhaps, but the ugly great block that was depicted in an earlier Newsletter, surely not. Whilst on the subject of this site what has happened to the preservation order that I was informed (by the owner) covered the old tin monstrosity that stands there. The order was so strict that earlier repainting was not even possible. I suppose that in view of the march of progress the order has very conveniently been swept under the table, if it ever existed. The mere fact that the old Mill is tall is no criterion for this ugly block to be erected on this site. All old mills had to be tall, Their very nature and way that they worked required them to so be, so please don't use that excuse to build tall nowadays. By all means keep the old tearooms (vets) it's a little gem, get rid of the tin horror by all means, build two or three houses and it could well be quite a nice feature for this rather derelict looking spot. Anything more and I'm sure the project will run into endless troubles not least traffic problems which over the next few years will not go away, but rather will increase quite considerably especially with the increase of articulated vehicles which seem to find their way through our village. Please everyone show your strength and say no to this project.

from Derek Blackman, Churchwarden, St John's Church

“...the Church belongs to us all...”

For many years St John's Church has held a Gift Day on the Saturday before Harvest Thanksgiving, to raise funds to keep the ministry of the Church alive in Elmswell and to make the building, its clergy and its services available to each resident. For family events, baptisms, weddings, funerals - for quietness and prayer - for gathering together to worship in the Christian tradition - the Church has been here over the centuries and we hope it will remain here for generations to come.

To serve a community in this way costs a great deal of money. We have to pay an annual 'parish share' to the Diocese - this year we have to find in excess of £25,000. This is why we hold fund raising events during the year and why those who attend Church regularly also **give regularly and generously**, but there is still a shortfall.

We therefore ask if you would like to make a donation to the continuing work of the Church here in Elmswell. The Church will be open on Saturday 29 September 2001 between 11am and 1pm and there will be an opportunity for you to have a cup of coffee and look at the Harvest flower arrangements when you bring your gift.

If you:-

- would like a lift to Church on that day, please telephone Joanna (01359 244471) and she will arrange this.
- are unable to attend but would like your gift to be collected, please telephone Helen (01359 244181) who will arrange this for you.
- are unable to attend but have a neighbour who attends Church, please ask if they will bring it for you.

Under the Gift Aid scheme St John's is able to claim an extra 28 pence for each £1 donated. The only requirement is that the donor must have paid sufficient UK tax to cover their donation and make a declaration to this effect. To enable us to claim the extra 28% all we ask is that you complete the declaration and enclose it with your gift (forms available at the Church).

News of Church Services and events are publicised in this newsletter each month and you will be made welcome at any of these.

If you would like a visit or have a request for prayer, please telephone the Rector (01359 240512).

Thank you in advance for your generosity; the Church belongs to us all - we thank you for your support for its work in the past and pray for its work in the future as it endeavours to serve the residents of Elmswell.

from Terry Southgate, Chairman, Autumn Fayre Committee

"...What a Fayre..."

What a Fayre we had! How are we to follow that?

Seeing the Kangaroo Kid, (Matt), flying over the Fire Engine and Railway Tavern Footballers on his Quad Bike was brilliant! I have seen him on TV a couple of times, but it is not the same as seeing him live. Thank you for the opportunity, Matt.

I could not believe it when I asked him to come to the Fayre and he said YES. It may well be the only time we see an international star at the Fayre. Welcome to the village Matt.

I would like to thank all of you who helped me including Peter Edmonds and Eileen Brooks, who put many hours of work into the Fayre.

I am not going to name any more names in case I miss anybody. I hope you all got as much pleasure out of the Fayre as I did. I have been involved with the Fayre for 7 years, but this was the best yet from the people who helped point of view.

The three of us on the committee did have extra problems put in our way before the Fayre day, but we just got on with it. We just allowed the people who caused the problems to have their little games! It was not fun getting up at 6.30am on the Fayre day because of it! If we had not had the extra help at 7.30am we would have had a big problem. Thank you to all the people who got up early to help.

P.S. Here is just one of the rewarding comments received about the event from The Sporting Escort Owners Club of Thurston

"...how entertaining and well organised..."

Dear Terry

Im writing this letter on behalf of the members of The Sporting Escort Owners Club who attended the Autumn Fayre on Sunday. They all commented on how entertaining and well organised the event was.

We always look forward to this show every year and would like to thank yourself and

anyone else who was involved in organising and running this event.

Keep up the good work and hope to see you all next year!

Many thanks

David Hovells

from Margaret Brown and Sisters of Rowan Green

"...Blackbourne Bistro..."

We would like to thank all the people who very generously donated so many lovely cakes to us at Blackbourne Bistro, they were all sold and very much appreciated. The total profits for the day was £409.50 and was all given to Elmswell Amenities Association. Once again very many thanks for all your help.

from Tony Marsham of Oak Lane

"...Well done all!..."

Yet another Elmswell Fayre has come and gone, hopefully with satisfactory financial results. But this time around it meant more to me than in other years. This year I did something to help.

I reported for duty at 7.00am on the morning of the big day. Along with 8 other willing hands we set about our first task, erect the beer marquee. Well, you have to get your priorities right, don't you?

That task completed we did a circuit of the Meadow and sealed up any gaps in the hedges big enough to allow a body which might then evade our money takers on the official gate. Then to assembling the bin-bag holders - devices made, I understand by 'Buster' Terry Southgate. And they did their job! To marking out the arena...to hundreds of little jobs which you wouldn't think of but all essential to the smooth running of the day.

As a Steward I was allocated a duty on the gate and made myself generally available to the paying public who had braved the uncertain weather in their hundreds. Meanwhile the car park attendants stuck to their task all day and did a sterling job - often, as with Eric Buckmaster, out of the excitement all together patiently marshalling cars on the field into straight lines. Everyone got in and out, and there were none left at the end! The straw disappeared, too. Brought on by Dickie Burch with tractor and trailer and vital to the performances of the wrestlers and the Kangaroo Kid. It was re-loaded at the end by willing helpers, youngsters from the Village show, hopefully, set a fine example to the 'window smashers' and the few hell-bent on destruction around our excellent and hard-earned facility at Blackbourne. Well done lads!

And when all the tired workers finally did get away, apart from a few wisps of that straw there wasn't a scrap of litter to be found anywhere.

Well done all!

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE PARISH COUNCIL

So that there be no confusion in the eyes of the public regarding the recent County Court claim by the Amenities Association against the Parish Council, we reproduce here the letter which went from the Association's Chairman on 27th July to the then Parish Clerk, Mr Eric Buckmaster, who was also the Parish Council Representative on the Amenities Association Committee of Management. It was copied to all Councillors.

Dear Mr Buckmaster

Amenities money on deposit with Parish Council

You were present at the meeting of the Trust Management Committee held last night, Thursday 26th July, when the above matter was fully aired.

The Trust's Treasurer, acting on instructions given to him at a properly constituted meeting of Trustees, requested the return of the capital sum of £2,000 placed on deposit with your Council in 1998, plus accrued interest. This request was made to you as Proper Officer of the Council in a letter dated 21st May. Following his reminder to you on 11th June, you replied on 18th June suggesting that the money should not be returned. On 21st June, the request for the return of the funds was repeated and it was again pointed out that the Trust's Officer was acting on the instructions of Trustees. Once again, on 29th June you declined to repay the money. On 19th July I wrote, as Chairman, repeating the request and imposing a seven day deadline. This letter provoked a response dated 21st July but signally failed to produce our money.

I took no action pending last night's meeting, although this went beyond our deadline. You are aware that, excepting your own abstention, Trustees were unanimously in favour of pressing for the return of the Association's funds. They were equally keen to stress that, as and when costed proposals for a scheme at the Bowls Green have been granted planning permission, and given sight of the documentation verifying grant aid already secured, then they would be pleased to consider grant aiding the new scheme on its merits. They requested that the approach for funding should come from the Parish Council which must be the applicant proper for grant aid in this instance. They expressed considerable frustration at your refusal to act, as Parish Clerk, on their request and, similarly, your failure, admitted at the meeting, to present their request properly to Council.

I am instructed by that meeting to give you, as the Proper Officer of the Elmswell Parish Council, notice that, if the capital sum of £2,000, together with the interest which has accrued, is not returned to this office by close of business on Monday 13th August, then legal proceedings will be issued by the Elmswell Amenities Association against the Council to secure repayment.

If you have the time ... They've got the plaice.

We all know that Elmswell Chippie - officially the D & J Fishbar - is a victim of its own success. The product is so good that the customers come from far and wide, so it is not unusual to see the queue out of the door, despite the staff working flat out.



Well now it's official! The well respected 'Suffolk Journal' recently reviewed three 'top notch' fish and chip shops in the County. Two were on the coast, and ... inland? Step forward Dave and Jane - D & J.

Dave is at the sharp end. He is commended for his spotlessly clean premises, for 'firm, sweet fish' of generous proportions and for golden chips of a 'great cut'. At £6.30 for two this represented, in the eyes of the Journal, 'excellent value'. And so say all of us!



In line with tradition, the chippie's not open on Mondays - but Elmswell scores again. Mondays is 'Fish, Chips & Mushy Peas Day' (and night) at the Fox. Where enormous cod, plaice or haddock in Yvonne's delicious (made while you wait) cider-batter come with excellent chips, genuine mushy peas and all the trimmings down to the bread and butter, for under £5.00 per head. Superb pub food and no need to drive.

Alan Thompson (third from left) at the recent East Anglian Daily Times Wildlife Awards ceremony sponsored by Bernard Tickner. The Elmswell volunteers were Highly Commended.





OUR NEW LIBRARY

- WELCOME and THANK YOU

The dust having settled - both literally and metaphorically - the new Elmswell Memorial Library opens for business on Saturday 22nd September at 10.00am.

This will follow a brief formal opening ceremony hosted by Suffolk County Council which will take place at 9.45am - all are welcome.

A less formal celebration of this important improvement in one of the best loved and most widely used of our village facilities will take place on Friday 5th October at 4.30pm. This date falls within National Poetry Week and, in conjunction with Beyton Middle School, where he is giving a reading earlier in the day, we have been lucky enough to persuade Brian Patten to mark our occasion. Brian is an internationally known and widely published poet whose children's books and poetry have been read and loved by generations.

Once again, everyone is welcome.

Volunteers have already begun to clear the space in front of the new building which is to be the Memorial garden. An advisory group has been drawing up recommendations for the design of this important feature and these are to go before the Trustees with a view to opening this element of the scheme in the Spring.

The Trustees of the Amenities Association are extremely grateful for the consistent and overwhelming community support which has encouraged them to overcome obstacles which have, over several years, been designed by a few to prevent them carrying through this development for the many. The co-operation of Suffolk County Council has been unstinting and crucial, as has the helpful professionalism of Seamans, the contractor.



Thank you - now come and enjoy it.

Last Month's photo

- the lorry at the Post Office

Following the publication in our August edition of the photograph of the Danish Bacon Co. delivery lorry parked outside the Post Office in the early 1960's (?) we were contacted by Pauline Fisher of Wetherden who recognised the gentleman with the glasses as her father, Oliver Squirrel.



The other man, identified by Jeanette Weedon, is Sid Philips, father of Bill Philips, who was well known in the village.

Does that jog any more memories? Let us know on 241841 or call Paul Peachey, the collector of the picture, on 241517.

A Day of Remembrance for those who lost their lives in the Terrorist Attacks in the United States of America On the 11th September 2001

The above events have affected every single one of us in the Elmswell Community and across the World. There are now words to describe the images and reports we have seen. Subsequently a day of remembrance was organised at the Methodist Church in Elmswell on Friday 14th September.

So far, only the people who attended the Chapel have been able to relate their feelings and emotions in the book of condolences. The attendees also donated generously towards the victim support fund. This will be equally distributed between the families who lost loved ones from the United States of America and the United Kingdom.

Firstly, we must thank all the members of our community who came together to offer their support, advice, time and knowledge to organise the day of remembrance. People who have never met each other before offered their help to make the day possible.

The Methodist Chapel was made available for the whole day with kind thanks to Ron Moody. The leather bound Condolence books were very generously donated by Fulchers the funeral Directors in Bury St Edmunds. Posters were placed around the village to inform people that the Chapel would be open. They were designed and produced by Ron Curry (Our Parish Council Chairman), many thanks for the time and effort this took. A very thoughtful flower arrangement in the American colours was kindly donated by the Flower Station.

On the day of remembrance, 58 people used the Chapel to offer prayers, thoughts, condolences and donations. It was a quiet place of emotion, contemplation and comfort. The kind of emotion displayed was mostly disbelief that something so awful could happen in our world. The organ was played by a gentleman and lady very softly which offered comfort to those in the Chapel and people prayed for those who lost loved ones and for World peace.

During the day there was a strong sense of community spirit, from lots of kind and caring people. It is that type of spirit that makes Elmswell such a nice place to live and makes it a popular village for people to want to move into.

At the end of the day, all that we can hope for is that people in Elmswell and around the world will treat each other with love and kindness. This will not only make it a better world to live in but also strengthen the community spirit that unfortunately seems to be disappearing.

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council did not meet in August, traditionally the holiday month. The September meeting is required, by the Council's Standing Orders, to take place on the second Monday in September. However, the new Parish Clerk already has to attend the Parish Council meeting at Onehouse where she lives and where she is also Parish Clerk. Onhouse Parish Council also meets on the second Monday in the month. A meeting of the Elmswell Parish Council was, therefore, called for the due date, 10th September, but at 2.00 in the afternoon to allow the new Clerk to attend. This caused much consternation amongst those members of the public who would normally attend but who work during the day. The situation altered, however, when eight Councillors, including, apparently, the Chairman, who had called the meeting, could not attend either. The meeting was summarily cancelled on the assumption that the necessary minimum of 4 Councillors would probably not be there. The business of the meeting was held over until 17th September at 7.30 with some extra agenda items added.

In the meantime, an extraordinary meeting was called for 6th September. It was noted in advance that the Public would once again be excluded from the main body of discussion. Nevertheless, 5 members of the Public attended. The new Parish Clerk, Mrs Peggy Fuller was introduced and a proposal to change the day of the regular monthly meetings from the second to the third Monday in the month was stood adjourned until the next Ordinary meeting as required under Standing Orders.

The public were duly excluded on the vote of 6 Councillors. The Chairman also required that they leave the building and that the doors to the building be locked.

Libel: Councillors went on to discuss the claim for libel against the Council relating to a statement made in a leaflet which was circulated to all households during the recent acrimonious debate in the village which led to a vote not to apologise publicly but to refer the matter to the Council's insurers who will underwrite some of the legal costs involved. Cllr Mrs Mary Feeney asked for it to be formally noted that she was neither involved nor consulted in the production of the leaflet, the contents of which was not put before Council and to which she took objection.

Debt: The same 6 Councillors also agreed to defend the claim lodged in the County Court for money deposited with the Council in 1998 to help attract grant aid for a building adjacent to the bowls green at Blackbourne housing a pavilion and public toilets. The need for absolute secrecy was stressed, although full details were published the following day on the Council notice board.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The September Ordinary meeting having been finally convened and with 27 members of the public present, the following items of interest were among those discussed.

Dismissal: Cllr Dick Burch attempted to discuss what he perceived as unfair treatment of him personally as demonstrated in the minutes of the previous meeting. He claimed the right, as Councillor, to be included in Council business with the proviso, which he always strictly observed, that he declare any interest as and when necessary. Chairman Ronald Curry ruled this out of order and, in the ensuing unseemly exchanges, had forceful recourse to his recently acquired gavel to bring the meeting to order. He went on to propose that Cllr Burch be ejected from the Meeting. This proposal found no support at all. Cllr Burch stayed.

Police: Community Beat Officer, PC Grant Critchley, reported 15 crimes over August and September including domestic incidents, thefts and burglaries. So far 4 detections have been successfully carried out.

Road Improvements: The thinking on Shop Corner traffic has come full circle after two years. The County Council has confirmed that a roundabout is not feasible, as perviously advised. There is, however, no reversion to a traffic calming scheme at this dangerous spot. Instead there are proposal for modifications to junctions at Church Hill and Newson's Corner, an HGV weight limit one way down School Road and some one-way restrictions between the Co-op and Cooks Road. Traffic calming is, however, on the County Council list for Bennett Avenue/Oxer Close with a pavement through from the School car park in Cooks Road to Oxer Close.

Rats: The Clerk confirmed that there could be no emergency sanction of expenditure on rodent control measures which have been needed at the allotments for some time. She is in the process of securing three quotations for the work.

Blackbourne contractor's bill: Council has been given 7 days to settle a claim by the contractors who built the hall and four changing rooms at Blackbourne for money due. The project was signed off 2½ years ago since when the matter has dragged on with some £13,000 in dispute. An attempt is to be made to seek arbitration.

Accounts: Councillors authorised the draft accounts for the year 2000/2001. It was noted that only £16 interest had been received compared with £2274 in the previous year and that the Council is holding considerably more money in reserve. Councillors also commented on the 50% rise in general administration cost and a dramatic increase in the office expenses.

Planning: Councillors are to urge rejection of a change of use at Rookery farm, Drinkstone, from the cooking of waste food for pig swill to the rendering of animal waste. They repeated their objection to an expansion of the facilities at Diapers Poultry, Haughley New Street. Nearer home, they approved of an

expansion at Hudson's Haulage, Grove Lane and of the proposal for a children's nursery at Street Farm Bungalow opposite the Mace Shop.

Jubilee: It was agreed that up to £3,500 be made available for an event in June 2002.

Church: £350 was granted to the St John's Fabric Fund, matching pound for pound the donation made from the proceeds of the recent fund raising event at which Mrs Mary Archer was the guest speaker. Cllr Clark refuted suggestions that the 'matched funding' had been promised in advance, without reference to Council, by certain Councillors involved in arranging Mrs Archer's visit. His proposal for a Council donation matches the donation from the event by coincidence.

Cricket: The Cricket Club was granted £97.22 towards repairs to their score hut, recently vandalised. It was pointed out by Cllr Clark that this is the last money they can expect from the Council.

Grant Aid: The Chairman disagreed that the Council's procedures for grant aid funding are a complete mess and perceived by many to be most unprofessionally administered and discriminatory. The recent application from the Luncheon Club had not been brought forward to Council and the paperwork for an application from Mr Roy Finch was a year out of date. These issues will be addressed.

Parish Clerk's Office: Concern was expressed at the arrangement whereby the new Clerk's Office, created by taking over the changing rooms at Blackbourne, is funded jointly by the Blackbourne Management Association and the Parish Council. Cllr Clark, Vice Chairman of the Council and Chairman of the Blackbourne Management Association, disagreed. He was backed up by Council Chairman, Cllr Curry, Secretary to the Blackbourne Management Association, who pointed out that the office belongs to the Blackbourne Management Association which allows the Parish Council to use it. A meeting is to be held. Rent will be determined, but the level of rent will be set within the Council's allocated budget.

County Councillor: Chris Storey, our new County Councillor drew attention to a recent initiative to promote the fitting of smoke alarms. He is to present prizes to the recent Reading Scheme achievers at the new library and to attend the official opening events of this exciting new facility. He reminded the meeting of the £16,000 of grant aid which he had to distribute among the 11 villages within his ward. The money is available for a wide range of community development uses. He urged organisations to be in touch with him on 258456 or write to him at Mill Cottage, Hunston Road, Badwell Ash IP31 2DJ.

Next Meeting: The date of the next meeting was not fixed, but an informed guess would suggest Monday 15th October at 7.30 in the Blackbourne. Watch the notice board at the Co-op for sudden surprises.



What's On in Elmswell ?

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

September

- 22 Elmswell Toddlers Nearly New Sale, 2-4pm at the Wesley Hall
- 23 Kiln Meadow - mowing/raking (equipment provided, bring gloves), 9.00am
- 28 Macmillan Cancer Relief Coffee Morning, 10am-12noon in St John's Church Room
- 29 St John's Church Gift Day, 11am-1pm
- 30 Harvest Thanksgiving, St John's Church, 10.30am and 6.30pm
- 30 Elmswell Toddlers Treasure Trail around the village

October

- 3 2pm. The Old Telephone Exchange, Elmswell Exchange WI, Craft Afternoon. Competition 3 iced buns
- 4 Little Elms social evening at the Fox, 8pm
- 7 Baptist Church Harvest Parade Service, 11am

October continued

- 7 Baptist Church Harvest Songs of Praise, 6.30pm
- 11 E.M. History Group, 8pm, talk by Stuart Bowell, 'The Suffolk Dialect'
- 13 Baptist Church Alpha Introduction Supper, 7pm
- 16 Elmswell Toddlers pot luck supper
- 24 Elmswell Toddlers have Tempest photos at the Wesley Hall, 10 till 12
- 27 Jumble Sale, 2pm, Wesley Hall, School Road, to raise funds for Elmswell Cricket Club
- 28 Craft Fair at the Blackbourne, 10am-4pm

November

- 3 Methodist Church Bazaar, 2-4pm, Wesley Hall
- 7 2pm. The Old Telephone Exchange, Elmswell Exchange WI, Annual Meeting. Speaker Mr Copping, topic British Birds. Competition animal photo

November continued

- 11 Remembrance Sunday Service, 10.30am
- 15 E.M. History Group, 7.30pm with Clive Paine
- 17 St John's Church Autumn Fair, 2pm at the Blackbourne
- 17 Elmswell Cricket Club: Entertainment Quiz, 7.30pm, £2 per person, max. 6 per team
- 24 E.M. History Group, 10am, Tour of St Mary's Church, Woolpit with Clive Paine
- 29 E.M. History Group, 7.30pm with Clive Paine
- 30 Little Elms Christmas Fayre, 2.30-4pm in the School Hall

December

- 4 Elmswell Toddlers Christmas meal out for the adults
- 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
- 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

*Tell us more -
Tel 241841*

Monica L. Carlin

MSSCh. MBChA.

Ruth E. Carlin

MSSCh. MBChA.



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