

Seventeen years of Parish Record....
..... Community News and the Community's Views.



The ELMSWELL Newsletter

AUGUST 2002

..... Your Parish Matters

AUTUMN Elmswell FAYRE

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1st SEPTEMBER

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This Month's "COMMENT"

comes from Tracy Murphy
of Hawk End Lane

I have been reading, with interest, the deliberations that have been taxing members of our Parish Council over the youth shelter apparently destined for Crown Mill. I am writing to share a view with all those concerned in the development of the project.

A first observation is that it is not clear what the exact nature of the working group was, or if any specific outcomes had been identified by its members. However, should this group re-convene, or any future group be set up to explore the proposals for a youth shelter, I suggest that it would be appropriate to talk to a number of relevant youth organisations about the proposals. Obviously, some discussion did occur with the police but I cannot glean from the correspondence whether any other organisation was consulted.

The organisations that would offer advice about the development of a new youth shelter or club would be:

- Community Education, of which the Youth Service in Suffolk is a part;
- Connexions Suffolk, who are the new, overarching support, information and guidance agency for 13-19 year olds.

Both organisations have experience of establishing new youth centres and clubs throughout Suffolk; Connexions in particular, actively seek out areas for new provision for young people. Both organisations also employ professionals who work intensively with young people in this age group. Community Education employs Youth Workers, and Connexions employs Personal Advisers whose job it is to understand the needs of young people. Indeed, Connexions are required to consult with young people about the best ways of meeting their needs and are in the process of setting up youth forums throughout the county.

The other obvious group which it would be useful to consult is Suffolk Acre; they have a brief to address the needs of people in rural areas and young people are a particular target group for them.

The other issue is concerned with the definition of a youth shelter. The word conjures up images of a bike shed. Do we mean a proper, bonafide building with

amenities and facilities that meet the social and educational needs of the youth of the village? Purely somewhere for them to congregate and be left to their own devices? I would be concerned if the latter were the case. Surely, any provision for the young people of the village must be planned in terms of meeting their present and future needs. Wouldn't it be better to make a sustainable and evolving provision?

In terms of the siting of the shelter or club, I think we do have a duty to question the wisdom of placing provision for teenagers alongside provision for younger children. Crown Mill was always supposed to provide us with a village green and provide long overdue play facilities for the young. The needs of these two groups are very different and, to my mind, do not sit happily together. Surely, our duty in the first instance on Crown Mill is to the children of the village. It seems to me that their area has already been commandeered by the teenage fraternity.

This project does need some strategic and co-ordinated planning if it is to meet the needs of the village and the young people who live in it. It would be nice to think, for once, that the people we have elected to make these decisions, on behalf of the residents of the village, could exercise some foresight.

YOUR COMMENT INVITED... If you have a comment, a view, a statement - something to say about anything of concern to Elmswell - share it with our readers via the 'Comment' column or our 'letters to the Editor' feature c/o Goblins, Station Road Industrial Estate. Please include your name and address and a telephone contact number - our next deadline is 11th September.

The deadline for the next issue is 5.00 p.m. on **Wednesday 11th September 2002**. Copy to Goblin's office on Station Road Industrial Estate or contact our Editors: 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 ...

Services etc at

ST JOHNS CHURCH

Sunday 18 August

10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 25 August

10.30am Morning Prayer

11.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 1 September

9.30am Family Service

10.30am Morning Prayer

11.30am Holy Communion

Friday 6 September,

Saturday 7 September and

Sunday 8 September

Friends of St John's Church Festival Weekend. See advert on P.11 for full details.

Saturday 14 September

Suffolk Historic Churches Trust
Sponsored Cycle Ride

Sunday 15 September

10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday School in Church Room at 10.30am every Sunday except 1st in month.

Christian Aid

Following two recent Sunday Services collections were taken for CA Southern Africa Famine Appeal and £150 was raised.

St John's Church

The Parish Praise service on 14 July focused on the work of the Church Pastoral Aid Society; worship was led by Helen Tilney and Jean Folkard and the offering was donated to CPAS. Part of the Society's work is to assist parishes and clergy, giving advice and guidance when required.

The Friends of St John's Church - Elmswell

The AGM of the Friends was held on Friday 13 July, followed by a concert by La Dolce Gamba, telling in words and music the story of Will Kemp's Morris dance from London to Norwich. A salad supper was served following the concert.

On page 11 in the Newsletter there is an advertisement

for the Friends' Festival weekend, which will be held in the Church from 6 - 8 September. Tickets are available for the Cheese and Wine Concert and Preview Evening - price £5 - from Jean Folkard. Tel: 242099. The Concert will include songs from musicals around the world.

ELMSWELL METHODIST NEWS

Like most other organisations our regular activities have taken a rest during the month of August, all except our Exchange Hall Club, and they will meet on 20th August, in the Gardeners Walk garden of Ruth and Eddie Crabtree.

Our Sunday services continue of course at 10.45am and the preachers planned are:

August 18 Mrs Carol Colton

August 25 Mr Oliver Baker

Sept 1 Rev Jeffrey Bloomfield

Sept 8 Rev Stephen Yelland

Sept 15 Rev Peter Dainty

This will be our Harvest Thanksgiving service.

During the month of August we welcome the move of Ron and Jean Moody from Tostock to Elmswell. Both are very active

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and much loved members of our church.

As in years past our church will be open on Saturday 14 September for drinks, toilets and card stamping, for all taking part in the annual Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Sponsored Cycle Ride. 10am - 6pm.

ELMSWELL CRICKET CLUB (Sponsored by Manvers Triumph)



A big different between what you might call 'proper' cricket and what we in Elmswell play, can be attributed to the phenomenon known as rustdrift. The term, probably unknown to you, has an obscurity that one day might result in you spotting it on "Call My Bluff" though I don't reckon Ms Toksvig or Mr Coren will guess the definition correctly (unless they ever happen to pass this way during the summer months). It can be defined as that inexplicable occurrence that makes the life of every village captain a waking hell. In ECC it's been named after Dean Rust, an early stalwart and absolute master of the practice. Others have tried to emulate him but none has been able to match either his class or total domination of the art.

To put it simply. You ask him to field at cover point. Off he trots, smiling and eager to please (nice fella is Dean - always smiling and eager to please). Ten minutes later you glance over to cover point expecting to see Dean Rust, hoping to see Dean Rust, sometimes even praying to see Dean Rust. But at cover point, there is an uncanny absence of Dean Rusts. Not one Dean Rust is there to be seen. He's drifted off to the third-man

boundary. Sometimes he drifts to long-off but, invariably, he's completely forgotten where he's supposed to be. Once, he even made it to the slips. But he's still smiling - and so are the batsmen as they clump every ball through the convenient hole which has now appeared in the field. Some fielders can rustdrift with astounding skill and timing, often disappearing from their allotted position just seconds before the batsman offers an easy catch there. Sometimes they rustdrift towards someone else to have a chat. David Peachey always rustdrifts towards The Blackbourne when rain looms, or it's too hot, or too cold - not infrequently covering distances which, in other circumstances, might benefit from a camel and two weeks of provisions. Often, when a left-hander comes in to bat, fielders prone to rustdrift just can't

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Around and About cont'd., pg5

remember where they have to go. They can only remember two positions, one for each over - so when you need them to be in different places for each batsman, some sort of intellectual short-circuit takes place and they wander along like long-stay mental hospital patients recently released into the community. In Elmswell CC, many rustdrifters have been playing like this for years. When you do try to move them back to the position you first put them in, they look totally dumbfounded and even have the nerve to throw up their arms in despair, as if to say you really should make up your mind. Actually, you have made up your mind - to absentmindedly stab them with your fork during tea. For the likes of myself, Graham Newman, Ron Farmer etc., rustdrift is unavoidable - it's a product of age and too many fish and chip suppers. We'll chase (I use the word loosely) the ball to some distant part of The Blackbourne but, to be perfectly honest, just can't get back to our positions before the next ball is bowled. Sadly, there's no real hiding place. When first-class captains try to 'hide' a player it's probably because he can't throw a ball 75 yards flat to the wicket-keeper while still lying on the ground having dived 20 yards to stop a certain four just inside the boundary. We try to hid fielders who'll duck if the ball comes anywhere near them. We put people in the slips not because they'll take a catch - be sensible - but because there they are out of harm's way. So if you see us with what appears to be a very attacking field comprising four or five slips, you'll know what's really going on ... as recent results demonstrate:

League: Brandon 171 for 9 (Rob Linnett 5 for 45); Elmswell 125 (Nigel Greathead 59, Nigel Burch 15 not out). Lost by 46 runs.

Friendly(!): Elmswell 119 for 4 (David Peachey 51 not out, Graham Newman 16 not out); Elmswell Football Club 121 for 4 apparently (if you believe their scorers...)

League: Worlington 172 for 8 (Doug Reed 3 for 43); Elmswell 138 (Jordan 39). Lost by 34 runs.

We actually had a supporter (yep, we do have one) who travelled from the Cotswolds to see us play ... only for the match in question to be rained off. With that sort of good fortune you won't see us campaigning for the Burch to be brought back!

Finally, don't forget our Quiz "Who Am I?" - copies on sale at £1 each (for a mega-prize of £20) from all reputable members of the Club (and Nigel Bailey). If you don't happen to see us beforehand we hope to be selling these at the Elmswell Fayre - and they're also on sale in the Post Office.

Doug Reed, Secretary (Tel: 241009)

LITTLE ELMS FUN FACTORY

We had a successful OFSTED inspection on 12th July and are now looking forward to opening on 21st October - half term week. We will be open daily from 8.30am - 5.30pm.

We will be holding an **open evening** for you to stop by any time between the hours of 4 - 8 pm on **24th September** at the Blackbourne for parents to meet the committee and our team of highly qualified staff. Our schedule of events for the half term week will be available, along with our Parents Information pack. This will be the time to complete an application form to secure a place (limited spaces available).

We are still looking for a part time Treasurer. If you are interested please

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contact the Chairperson, Debbie Brannick on 244276.

If you have questions or concerns regarding the Fun Factory please contact me on the above number or see a member of the committee.

HELPING HAND CLUB

Our recent outing to Clacton was greatly enjoyed by everyone who went. The weather was very kind, a beautiful warm summers day.

Our next outing is to Cromer on September 14th with a visit to "Seaside Special", the end of the pier Variety Show. The Antiques Road Show proved to be very popular with our members. Our expert had a large number of items on the tables to inspect and make interesting comments about. Our meetings are held every other Thursday. Visitors and Guests always very welcome!

Until next month,

Best wishes,

Stan

ELMSWELL GARDENING CLUB

Didn't we do the village proud on July 21st, not only did all the gardens we had open look absolutely splendid, but I thought there was a tendency for a lot of gardens around the village to get that little extra attention just so our visitors could see the village at its best.

Looking back over the years it has become apparent that the August Newsletter report has turned into a big thank you, and I intend to make no exception this year, so firstly may I thank Guus Hamel of Garden Design for his sponsorship,



and thanks go to Mike and Lorna Scott for organising and running the children's treasure hunt, and to Steve at Gem's and Roy and Polly Finch for their support, and of course there are all the good ladies that have baked cakes etc and those who helped at the Hall on the day especially Olive and Jean, and to all our good friends who gave draw prizes, and a big thank you must go to all those gardeners who so kindly open their gardens on our special day. I must also thank Lesley Dolphin of Radio Suffolk who gave us a very enthusiastic 40 minute slot on her Sunday lunchtime gardening programme, and lastly should there be anyone who I have not thanked and there always is please accept our thanks.

Our next meeting will be in the Library at 8.00pm on September 19th when the guest speaker from Otley College will be speaking on the History of Gardening, the monthly competition will be for 5 Tomato's, see you all there.

ELMSWELL TODDLERS

Elmswell toddlers is one of the few toddler groups in this area to stay open during the summer holiday. To celebrate this fact not only do we have the normal sessions, full of play craft activities and singing, but extra special attractions such as a train trip to Needham Lakes - enjoyed thoroughly by those who believed the sun would shine through despite the torrential downpour early morning. We also had a magical afternoon being entertained by Magic Mickey. Over 30 children from babies to 8 year olds were entranced by his tricks and overjoyed with the balloon animals to take away, what a wonderful way to spend a wet



Around and About cont'd., p29

afternoon! If reading this you feel left out and jealous of all the fun we have had fear not! We are not finished yet! We had a teddy bears picnic at the Blackbourne on Wednesday August 14th with silly races and a raffle. Everyone was welcomed to come along on the day with a picnic and teddy. This activity was free and older brothers and sisters were more than welcome. On Wednesday 28th August from 3pm onwards we will have a family BBQ with a bouncy castle (for all those with cast iron stomachs), tickets are £2 per adult incl food and drink, children go free. Pop in to a toddler session for more info or call Anna on 242348.

Our Nearly New Sale is on Saturday September 28th where great bargains in clothes (maternity, and childrens from new born to 11, toys and equipment) can be found, see adverts or call Alex on 244692 for more details. If all this sounds tempting why not come along to any session (Mondays 1.30 till 3 & Wednesday 10.00 till 11.30) at the Wesley Hall in School Road and meet everyone? Your first session is free so you have nothing to lose. If you want to check us out first come along to our stall at the Autumn Fayre where we will have many games to play and people to chat to. This year we are undertaking a major project in association with the Methodist Church and having

the small garden area at the rear of the hall re-fenced and turfed so that hopefully later this summer all the little ones can play inside and out. To fund our share of the project we will need all the pennies we can get, and so please do come and support our fund-raising events.

Sarah Webber (24 Orchard Close, 242786)

ST JOHN'S CHURCH TOWER FLOODLIGHTING

A night's floodlighting costs £5.

Please make cheques payable to "ST JOHN'S CHURCH, ELSWELL".

JULY 2002 SPONSORSHIPS NOT PREVIOUSLY ACKNOWLEDGED

19 in loving memory of Vic Fuller.
Love, Heather.

AUGUST 2002 SPONSORSHIPS

9 in memory of Lilian Hurrell

22 in memory of Betty Margaret
Greathead

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

THE BLACKBOURNE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

Since Contact, Acquaintance & Awareness are the essence of Village life, here you will find the names of the new Management Committee who are

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Around and About cont'd., p210

administering the Blackbourne facility on behalf of all the villages of Elmswell.

The Blackbourne Committee are volunteers and nominees drawn from a cross section of Village Clubs, the Parish Council, and Members of the Public, whose aim is to develop the Community Hall facility for the benefit of all.

David Abbott, Bob Barter, Eric Buckmaster, Pat Carton, Jeanne Crook, Ron Curry, Peter Dow, Roy Finch, Keith Harrison, Lesley Reed, Ian Tullett

Any one of them will be happy to advise 'what's going on' or who to contact for your particular interest in the Village Hall. As we have previously stated, at present the Community Centre is used for less than 50% of its capacity, and the Committee's wish is to introduce any new activities that will interest and benefit Elmswell.

It has open space, dressing rooms, showers, a good kitchen and can seat some 200 people if required.

It's a great place for Family Weddings, Club Activities, Meetings, Dances & Parties and Seminars.

Please do let us know what interests you. Special competitive fees are available for Elmswell residents.

For Hall Bookings - Contact Mrs Lesley Reed 241009

Queries or problems - Contact Eric Buckmaster 245148

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 01284-754358.

The Parish Representative in your area is: Mrs Hilda Jackson: Holly Cottage,

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Contact:

Sandra Gidney 07971 827522 or
Sarah Paczy 01359 242965

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Long Thurlow, Badwell Ash IP31 3JB.
Tel: 01359-259944.

ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

Summer's here and a lot of our activities and the people that organise them each week are having a well-earned summer break.

Last month saw our end of term CU club on Tuesdays finish with a great night. We met at the Blackbourne, had fun and games, enjoyed a bar-b-que and tried to get out homemade kites to fly. Thanks to everyone who supported us and enjoyed the evening, we had over 25 children and around 15 adults taking out the stress of the day running up and down the meadow flying (or in most cases dragging) kites, playing with parachutes and putting out fires (see our Secretary for details on that one). At least three families were also going to Norfolk on 31st July to join in on a beach mission with Kevin, I hope the weather was nice. Our term re-starts on 10th September - a very special day for some - so please give us a look at 6pm and join with us - I can't believe it's nearly been a year since we started!

On the first Monday of September our Ladies Friendship Group re-convene and although the programme has not been finalised, they will meet at 7.45pm. In June a very successful trip involved over 20 going to the Cotton Organ Museum, it's amazing what you can do with a piece of cotton!!

Our Trailblazers Club completed its run in July, and due to the ever decreasing numbers for this on Sundays, unless we get any takers in September we may decide to put all our efforts into the successful Tuesday club, and not re-start in Sept., but I will keep you notified on that one. If you are interested in your

child attending a children's meeting on a Sunday between 9.45 - 10.45 let us know. Our weekly services will continue on Sundays at 11am each week - we have a variety of people from across East Anglia come to speak, so give us a look. If you are on holiday, just moved into the village or curious then pop in on a Sunday morning, I promise we won't lock the door behind you.

That's it for a quiet month but it will all happen in September/October, so keep reading as there will be more to report on a number of things to look forward to. Enjoy the summer and the new footy season - you are speaking to an Ipswich Town season ticket and Gold Club member now!!!

Mark

P.S. The lady that let us into the Blackbourne was very attractive and helpful - (that should give us a 5% discount next time) - although I am sure I've seen her somewhere before walking around with a famous village cricketer!!

ELMSWELL F.C.

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Summer School Sponsors: Wells Stitched Embroidery (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).



Around and About cont'd., pg 15

1st Team Manager: D Scase. Assistant K Hammond.

2nd Team Manager: (A) Team Manager D Carter. Assistant J McMillan.

Under 14 Sponsors: Abbots Estate Agents (Manager P Case).

Under 11 Sponsors: D J Fishbar (Elmswell) (Manager T Ingram)

Under 10 Sponsors: Village Homes, Manager J Tuzinkiewicz

Under 8: (Manager) A Trickey

Over 35 Sponsors: C G Finch & Sons.

Monthly Draw for July

drawn by A Leeks

No 192	A Stiff	£50
No 258	Dick Nunn	£35
No 93	C Gould	£25
No 141	N Plumpton	£15
No 255	C Cox	£15

We still require a manager for our reserve team. Anyone who could help the Club out, please ring (Barry) on 240951. Also we are looking for someone to mark out the football pitches at Grove Lane & Blackbourne, again ring Barry if you could help in any way.

Just one last thing, we played the Cricket Club at cricket and won. Scores: C Club 120 off 20 overs. F Club 121 off 19.1 overs. I expect Doug will have something to say about this in his report.

Anyone wishing to join the Football Club please telephone B Hayward on (01359) 240951.

Training Wednesday nights Grove Lane pitch.

Compiled by H Mulley (01359) 240889

JUNIOR FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

July 14th 2002 saw 42 teams contest for the different age groups on a brilliant, hot and sunny Sunday. Some 400 youngsters,

aged from 7 to 13, played about 6 games each under a blistering sun. Their parents enjoyed well-cooked burgers and hot dogs, drank cool drinks whilst the little brothers and sisters enjoyed eating lots of sweets. People brought chairs and tables of all shapes and sizes, picnic hampers with wine and beers. Everyone was going to have a jolly good time and they did.

This was without doubt the biggest and best Junior Soccer Tournament that the village had ever held. The success of the tournament is down to a small band of helpers who give up their time in order that the kids and parents can go and enjoy themselves. Talking of enjoying themselves, the referees certainly did, even declining their match fees (well done chaps). The Sponsors also deserve a pat on the back, as do all the helpers. This year because we were down on one of our big sponsors we decided to make a car park charge but this did create a traffic jam, the likes that Elmswell had not seen since Dick's tractor broke down outside the Fox. All I can do is apologise to the residents of Blackbourne Road for the inconvenience this caused you and hope that we have learnt from this mistake. The two lucky car park ticket winners were: £50 ticket number 167 went to Craig Wann of Bardwell FC, £25 to ticket number 79 Kevin Osbourne of Bressingham FC. The Roll of Honour reads as: Under 8's Felixstowe and Walton, 9's Bury Town, 10's Sicklesmere, 11's Wetherden and Haughley, 12's Long Melford and Under 13's Martlesham FC. I finish this short report by saying that I look forward to next July when we can do it all over again. Thanks to everyone for your support and participation.
David Young, Gen Sec Elmswell F.C.

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ELMSWELL EXCHANGE W.I.

Elmswell Exchange continues to enjoy some very interesting meetings.

Who could imagine buying a prestigious Rolls Royce with the idea of transporting people to places of their choice around Britain? That was the talk given by a lady chauffeur. How would you feel if one day, as you were taking a gentle stroll along the river bank, you happened upon treasure - in this case a horde of coins dating from 1479 - 1645, a final total of 1,122?! We were spellbound listening to that account.

And what about a trip to Brazil and Rio? - a complete contrast to our own outing to Anglesey Abbey and our 'theatre' trip

to see the Federation Play 'Daisy pulls it off'. We also had a lively June meeting to celebrate the Jubilee with Stanley King entertaining us with one of his musical quizzes so you can perhaps get some inkling of what goes on in the old Telephone Exchange on the first Wednesday of every month.

We should love to welcome new members. Do come along to our Coffee Morning on Saturday, 21st September. We will be in the Wesley Hall between 10 - 12 noon manning the usual stalls and ready to offer a welcome cuppa. Any enquiries to Jill Reed 01449 737814 or to Mary Mulley 242117.



The Old Tea Room



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AUTUMN Elmswell FAYRE

This year's Fayre features, by popular demand, a return of **The Kangaroo Kid** whose spectacular display last year included a leap over the entire Railway Tavern Football Team and a dramatic jump over the Elmswell Fire Engine. Now, for the first time in a local show, the Kid is joined by his Kiddies for more high-revving, heart stopping unpredictable mayhem.

Other ring events will include performances by the Bury St Edmunds **'Spectrum' Gym Club**, the ever-popular **Terrier Racing** and the well established **boys v girls tug of war**. Our friends from the **vintage vehicle fraternity** will parade, proud and polished, whilst the crowd are told some of the fascinating detail of how and why these beautiful veterans have cheated the scrap yard.

Around the site there will be the **fun of the fair** with rides and stalls including the full sized **Helter Skelter**. Foodies may choose between **Hoggies Hog Roast**, the **Burger Bar** or perhaps take a seat at **Britt's Bistro** serving a **delicious menu of teas and snacks** from the kitchen the hall. The **beer tent** will help to wash it all down. **Chrissy's Bouncy Castles** offer a variety of ways to fall over and a **NASA Virtual Reality Aircraft Flight Simulator** will test both skill and stomach.

In quieter vein, there will be a **Family History Genealogical Fact Finding Service** on offer and a hall full of **crafts and displays** - in fact, something for all tastes and moods. Village clubs and organisations will also be bidding for the spare 20p's on what is for many a major fund raising afternoon.

This Jubilee year children aged 15 and under are admitted free - and at just £1.50 for everyone else, it offers a rewarding finale to the holiday season.

The Rural White Paper - Its Importance for Elmswell

In November 2000 the Government published The Rural White Paper (*Our Countryside: the Future - A Fair Deal for Rural England*). It represents the most important development for parish councils in over 100 years and the village, quite literally, cannot afford to miss out on the opportunities it provides. Elmswell Parish Council established a Community Action Plan Working Party (CAPWP), led by myself, to explore and pursue some of those opportunities. So what are they? There are, not surprisingly, too many to explain in detail but the following are just three of the key matters which are, currently, being progressed:

- A new £15 million Parish Transport Fund has been provided to help finance local solutions to transport problems and to develop new schemes. For each parish, Elmswell included of course, this means a grant of up to £10,000 is available for transport initiatives. The CAPWP has already identified the need to support and enhance the current transport service that runs between the village and Woolpit Health Centre. This matter is being actively pursued, in consultation with the Health Centre, and neighbouring parishes are being asked to become partners in this initiative. Even if this is successful, it is hoped that there will still be money to support other developments so if you have any ideas then these would be very welcome.
- A £15 million Community Service Fund has been established to help safeguard or re-establish community-backed basic services. Across the country, over the next couple of years, some 2,500 rural community projects are to be financed. The CAPWP is, therefore, considering how best to access this money to the benefit of the people of Elmswell.
- Importantly, up to £5,000 per parish is on offer to help to help councils prepare and develop 'Village Plans'. Building on the excellent and comprehensive work completed by the Appraisal Steering Group, the CAPWP (with the help and support of Suffolk ACRE) has already started work on this. The "Elmswell Village Plan" will need to embrace all aspects of life in the village - all services, facilities etc. - and is intended to shape and inform future development. It can only do that if there is commitment and effective consultation - so we will need every bit of help we can get! Yes, it's a paper exercise, but only to a small extent. Having a village plan will enable Elmswell to open doors to other opportunities, so its value should not be underestimated. Further information about the Plan, and about how you can influence its development will, I hope, be provided shortly.

As mentioned above, there is a range of other issues contained within The Rural White Paper, and both the CAPWP and the Council as a whole will need to consider these in more detail - either from the point of view of accessing funding or, just as importantly, ensuring that the Council communicates and consults with the people of Elmswell so it's then able to properly reflect the village in terms of influencing developments. The possibilities and opportunities include:

- those relating to the environment.
- safer rural roads - reduced speeds, appropriate speed limits, more traffic calming, increased use of speed cameras, additional safety measures and rural bypasses.
- support for parish councils to gain Quality Status - implementation, nationally, has been delayed but if Elmswell could meet the criteria necessary to achieve this, it would then be able to take on devolved functions from other authorities. Action on this front has been passed to the Council's Finance and General Purposes Working Party, led by Tony Clark.
- a £2 million fund for developing rural post offices - including the provision of new services like banking and Internet access.
- promotion of new technology to improve public services.
- removal of the present Section 137 limit of £3.50 per head of electorate - what this would mean is that the Council could make far more money available for grant-aiding Elmswell organisations than at present.
- more resources for tackling social exclusion.

The above, and more, are very real opportunities to enhance the quality of life for those in the village and so **your** involvement (directly or otherwise) is going to be vital. The CAPWP has already identified a variety of organisations and individuals from whom help would be very much appreciated and others will be approached, asking for their participation. The net will, necessarily, need to widen in the coming weeks!

Finally, the CAPWP has also been charged with pursuing those matters in the *Village Appraisal* which have yet to be put into effect. A not inconsiderable challenge. However, it is essential that they are followed through. Mrs Sarah Jobbins, from the former Appraisal Steering Group, was co-opted on to the Working Party and others who were involved are likely to be asked for their assistance too!

Overall, as you may appreciate, the CAPWP has a substantial task. To date I would, regrettably, have to say that ability of the Working Party to make real progress has been constrained - crucially, by Council processes and a lack of commitment in some quarters, and also by the ever-increasing workload which the Parish Clerk has had to face (all correspondence needs to be routed via the Clerk). Even so, I and others remain hopeful that we can make a difference and that we will be able to report on some positive outcomes and actions in the not too distant future.

We will endeavour to ensure, both through this newsletter and that of the Council, that you are kept informed of progress. However, if you have any queries, either now or at any time, about the work of the CAPWP then please do not hesitate to contact any of the councillors on its membership - myself (see below), Mary Feeney (241901), Jeanne Crook (241591) or Ron Curry (242742).

Doug Reed

(Tel. 241009; e-mail: doug@reed.nu)

Letter to Ed from Lesley Reed, Secretary of Blackbourne Management Association
"New Year's Eve"

Due to a cancellation, the Blackbourne will be free on New Year's Eve if anyone wants to book it for a celebration. The charge is £65. My telephone number is Elmswell 241009.

From Chas Nunn of Miller Close

"Keep on with the good work"

I look forward to Wednesday evenings. Not only do I have the pleasure of playing bowls but, on reaching Blackbourne, I find the car park full - a job to find a space to park! The playing field is full of young people enjoying themselves playing and being taught the finer arts of football. There's not a finer sight to see in Elmswell. I pay tribute to the men and ladies who organise and, week after week, give their time and expertise to help the young people not only to enjoy the game but also to develop their skills. Who knows, we may have a David Beckham in Elmswell! That's not all. There are a great number of parents there, too, watching all that's going on and talking with one another. This is all to the good.

Well done all of you. Elmswell should be proud that in our village we have people who care about our young people and are doing something about it, not sitting on their backsides moaning about our youngsters.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT THE FUTURE WHEN SUMMER IS OVER?

What are the possibilities of doing something similar during the Autumn and Winter months? It takes time, effort and dedication, but so very worthwhile. Keep on with the good work.

From David Hollings - Group Scout Leader - of Gardeners Walk

"... a sense of community spirit?"

I feel that I must reply publicly to the letter of complaint about Beaver Scouts in the July edition of the newsletter.

I tried unsuccessfully to contact Ms Haxall by telephone to offer an explanation for the problems on the evening of the fire station visit and in the event wrote her a letter in which I apologised for any anxiety and stress we might have caused her and offered to speak further with her if she wished.

Having not heard from her I thought my apology had been accepted and the matter was closed, how wrong one can be!

Scout Leaders of all sections are unpaid volunteers who give up their time to prepare and run not only their weekly meetings but camps, visits, and visiting

instructors and deal with any administration necessary for their Colony, Pack, or Troop, it is not a one night a week commitment.

They are not infallible but it seems they are expected to be, they can and do make mistakes and one would hope any error might be viewed with understanding but alas it appears not to be the case.

All my leaders and helpers give up their time for the benefit of youngsters of this village out of a sense of community spirit and a commitment to young people and I publicly applaud their efforts.

As for what Beavers are doing in their meetings I would say this, ask any 6/7 year old what they did at any club and I would suggest you would get the same reply as Ms Haxall's son, yes they do kick a ball about at the beginning of their meeting, whilst the leaders sort themselves out for the evening.

Generally some form of craft work is undertaken such as producing Mothers Day cards, Halloween masks, pottery and so on and then games are played which are designed to exercise the boys both mentally as well as physically, evenings are concluded by a prayer and the Beaver Yell.

Beavers Motto is "Fun and Friends" and this is what we try to achieve for them, if any body out there feels that they can offer us any expertise, help or guidance to do better then please contact me, and I would be happy to hear their comments.

Whilst writing I would like to thank the people who have written and spoken to me offering words of encouragement and appreciation for our efforts for the youngsters of this village.

From Carol Davidson of Fighle Close

**In reply to Ms Haxall re
Beaver Scout Group**

I read with disbelief the letter from Ms Haxall regarding Elmswell Beaver Scout Group.

If Ms Haxall felt that her questions were not answered satisfactorily after her "confrontation" with Mr Hollings outside the Fire Station then Ms Haxall should have spoken further with Mr Hollings about the situation rather than writing a letter to the newsletter. The

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people of Elmswell do not know the circumstances. If Ms Haxall wants to know what other parents think about Beavers then why not ask the parents as they drop off their children at Beavers.

Ms Haxall's letter, I feel, is extremely undermining to the Elmswell Scout Group. All the Leaders are unpaid volunteers who care sufficiently about our young people to want to provide the experience of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts here in Elmswell. It takes a lot of personal time and commitment to run a section. I should know as I helped with Beavers for 6 years, 3 of them as Beaver Leader. The Group has tremendous difficulties getting Leaders and has been near to closure on many occasions. This sort of letter can only make the present Leaders think **"Why should I bother to put myself out when all I get is criticised"**. The safety of all the children is paramount with the Leaders and if there was any slip up in communication I know it would not be intentional. How many times does any parent find a slip from school or wherever screwed up in a pocket or bag - very regularly.

As for taking the word of a six year old as to what he has done ("playing football and messing about") - ask any young child particularly a boy - I have two - what they have done that day and 9 times out of 10 they will say "oh just stuff" or "we just messed about" or "I can't remember". Boys are like that. Has Ms Haxall actually bothered herself to ask the leaders what they will be doing in an evening session or offered to help in any way? I realise that volunteering to help in groups is not as straightforward as it used to be. Anyone who works with children now needs to be police checked first, which can take a few months.

In my own past experience quite a number of parents have not supported the Group in any way. I can even remember an AGM when no parents turned up! I hope that Ms Haxall will become involved in the group and support it rather than criticise the hard work done by a few.

It can take two or three evenings a week to plan a weekly session plus record keeping, administration for the section and planning any outings etc. This is not easy. I know that most of the Leaders hold full time jobs as well as having their own youngsters.

Regarding 'playing football and messing about' - I think you will find that the majority of Beaver Sections will play games during an evening session including football and have times when the children can just let off a bit of steam all under the supervision and control of the Leaders.

What is wrong with that?

It seems a shame these days that young children are not allowed to just enjoy themselves and have to be constantly learning and achieving.

Please remember the motto of Beavers is **"Fun and Friends"**.

From C M Lewis of Ashfield Road

"... to defend the Beaver Scout Group Leader"

In response to the letter from Ms Haxall in the July Elmswell Newsletter.

I would like to defend the Beaver Scout Group Leaders.

I have helped out on many occasions in the evenings at the Beaver Scout Group, and one of the nice activities the Beavers and Scouts have achieved is a pottery evening. I provide the clay so that the children can make ornaments. I then take the clay product home to bake in my kiln, then I take my poster paints back for another evening of painting their work. There has also been a talk show evening, where I showed my photographs of an interesting trip by bicycle/caravan holiday to the Scouts.

I know for a fact that the Beavers and Scouts do many more interesting activities each night that they meet.

Perhaps the good lady would like to go along and see for herself exactly what they do.

I think that there has been a breakdown in communication between parent and child.

I speak as I find.

From Caroline Lang of Oak Lane

"... appreciate how much work goes in ..."

Since moving to Elmswell in 1994 I have been involved in the Elmswell Brownie Pack but have recently decided to take some time out from my role as "Tawny Owl" as I am expecting my second baby in August.

I would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Leslie Grout - our "Brown Owl", who welcomed me into the group 7 years ago and still tirelessly oversees the running of not only Brownies but also Rainbows and Guides. Tremendous amounts of work go into planning meetings, managing waiting lists, organising events, keeping accounts and co-ordinating holidays - not to mention the hours spent at regular weekly



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meetings. Without Leslie's commitment these social groups which the girls so enjoy would not exist.

I would also like to say thank you to all of those girls in the village who have come to Brownies and have made my time as an adult helper memorable. In particular, I am grateful to those of you - parents and girls alike - who have taken the time to express your thanks to the adult leaders. Such simple gestures help make it all worthwhile.

Finally, I would like to say a massive thank you to all of those people in the village who give up their time voluntarily to organise groups in the village for our children. Be it toddler group, sports training, youth clubs, music groups or Boy Scouts, I hope there are still people like you around when my babies grow up and need your services. When people are critical or appear less than supportive of your efforts, rest assured that there are some of us who know and appreciate how much work goes in!

From Paula Hollings - Beaver Scout Leader 1993 - 1998 (Red Beaver)

"Supporting our Youth Workers...."

I am responding to a letter that was published in last month's newsletter about the obvious misunderstanding that happened about a fire station visit with Beaver Scouts and a parent not knowing about the visit.

I know nothing about this particular situation but do know that having given up my time for nearly six years to run Beavers that it is a thankless and, may I say it, **UNPAID** job.

Many parents think that because they pay subscriptions each year that this is then passed onto leaders as wages!! This is not the case.

We are not teachers, childminders or baby sitters, we are people that give up our evenings weekly and have several meetings during the year to take care of **YOUR** children and give them something a little different than what they receive at school.

And yes, if that means playing football all night, because the leader had a very busy week at their paid employment and couldn't plan anything, then so be it.

I really enjoyed my time with the boys and miss scouting dearly. I'm very upset to see that a parent finds it necessary to write a letter and air their views in public when this should be discussed and sorted in private with the leader and the Group Scout Leader.

If parents aren't happy with the way Beavers or any other organisations within the village are being run then, in my opinion, they can do one of two things

1. Take their child out of the group or

2. Get off their "back sides" and volunteer their services like the current leaders in all our youth groups in the village are doing!!
Leaders are only human and parents should be supporting leaders, not going on a witch-hunt.

N.B.

My father-in-law is Group Scout Leader and as his work within Scouting is highly confidential the first I knew about this situation was when I read it in the newsletter.

I am currently nothing to do with Elmswell Scouts, just a resident in the village and an upset ex-leader who felt it necessary to make my personal views heard.

From Jan Robinson of Haughley Hoofers

"... give clog dancing a try ..."

I have lived in the Stowmarket area for over 20 years. 6 years ago I was at the age when my children and husband left home. I needed an interest, friends and a social life. I joined Haughley Hoofers ladies clog dancing group. I am now fit, I have plenty of friends of various ages, and an active social life.

During the summer we often link up with other groups at pubs, clubs, fetes etc. We attend folk festivals (sometimes camping for the weekend). For the majority of our dancing out events our families come along and the children often join in with the musicians. We are hoping in 2003 to take a dancing holiday together with our families in France.

I used to be a real vegetable in the winter only thinking about exercise from the comfort of my armchair. Now I attend practices once a week and the occasional performance for a WI or club and feel much fitter for it. We also arrange several social events for the group and their families during the long winter months.

If you feel you would like to give clog dancing a try we are holding a taster session in Haughley Village Hall, Haughley (just off A14) on 21 September 2002 between 10.30 am and 12.00, there is no charge. For more details our Squire Gill Brett can be contacted on 01449 673518.

Male and female musicians will also be welcomed with open arms, they always seem to be in short supply!

If you run a local group perhaps you would like us to come along and entertain the group one evening.

From Stowmarket and District Volunteer Centre

Befrienders Urgently Needed In Elmswell

Do you have an hour or two to spare each week to become a befriender to visit someone who is isolated, either because of their age or a disability? Stowmarket and District Volunteer Centre is looking for volunteers in Elmswell who enjoy meeting people and who would be able to visit someone living nearby just for an hour regularly. You don't need any special skills and people of all ages are welcome to join the scheme. Some of our present volunteers are mums with babies, we have volunteers still at school, as well as people who are retired, disabled or living alone.

Regular training is available for volunteers, and the scheme is supported by a co-ordinator. We pay volunteers their travel expenses so that they are not out of pocket.

For more information about becoming a Befriender, please contact Maureen Withey, 01449 612486 at Stowmarket Volunteer Centre, 5 Poplar Hill, Stowmarket IP14 2AS.



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PARISH COUNCIL

Although an Ordinary Meeting was not scheduled for the month of August, an extra-ordinary meeting was called for Monday 5th. This meeting, attended by 8 councillors and 7 members of the public, followed a recent trend in that formalities are cut to a minimum - no minutes of previous meetings, no 'correspondence', no Clerk's Report etc and no questions allowed either from Councillors or members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr Peter Edmonds had sent his apologies and pointed out that he had not received notice of the meeting. The Chairman, Cllr Ronald Curry, said that he did not believe this to be true.

Planning: An application for another house down Hawk End Lane was not supported on the grounds that the lane is too narrow and the plot too small to allow development without a detrimental effect on neighbours. Similarly, a proposal for 16 residential units based on the footprint of the old barns at White House Farm, did not find favour, although the site has an existing permission for 8 larger units. There was no objection to plans for a single storey extension to 11 Gardener's Walk.

Bowls Pavilion Fencing: During the Public Comment allowed on agenda items only, it had been suggested that the apparently sudden discovery that the leylandii-type hedging fronting the bowls green would have to come out as a requirement of Mid Suffolk's Building Control overseeing the construction of the new pavilion demonstrated a shortcoming on the part of either one of the Council's professional advisors or the contractors. All must all have been well aware of the regulations relating to these trees and of the alternative option of putting in deeper concrete footings. This view was supported by a minority of two councillors. Also lost was the suggestion that the temporary security fencing currently in place should remain as an adequate safeguard whilst grant aid was sought from outside the village to cover the estimated £3000 cost of fencing to replace the hedge. The building work, and subsequent disruption, having taken place over the entire bowls season it was suggested that delaying the installation of permanent fencing would not affect the bowlers as their season is virtually over. It was pointed out that the original building had been costed at £60,000, that the new projected cost would now be £77,000 and that this Council had made no effort to source grant aid from outside the village towards the scheme. Cllr Clark, who proposed the extra expenditure, argued that competitive quotes for the work would not be sought as it formed part of the original contract. Cllr Curry seconded the proposal which

found favour with four other councillors and was passed.

Third Parish Clerk: Although absolutely no notice was given on the agenda, Cllrs Clark and Curry proposed and seconded the creation of the post of another paid Parish Clerk to assist the existing team which comprises the Parish Clerk and an unpaid assistant. Cllr Dick Burch argued that councillors had known nothing of this proposal prior to the meeting and that this was both unfair and unlawful. He questioned the spiralling cost of Council's administration, despite an extremely low level of achievement and in the face of considerable public dissatisfaction. Chairman Curry defended the proposal as being a recommendation from a Working Party and, therefore valid even though the rules governing the reports of such a Working Party require that they are presented to Councillors 7 days prior to the meeting at which they might be discussed. Cllr Reed also took issue with the precipitate and ill considered haste with which the proposal had been thrust before Council which stood, he argued, in danger of rushing into another wrong headed decision as had happened when the current Clerk was appointed on a contract which did not allow sufficient hours for the job to be done properly. In a heated debate both Cllrs Reed and Burch were ruled out of order and the proposal carried.

Grants: In light of criticism at the July meeting that at least 6 grant applications to the Council from village organisations had not been considered for several months and that, in fact, no grants at all had been made in the current financial year, £1,433.50 was given away in very short order to the 8 bodies which had applied since May.

Next Meeting: The next scheduled meeting takes place at 7.30 on Monday 16 September. Other meetings, if called, will be posted at the Co-op and may be posted on the village notice boards.

Peter Dow



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What's On in Elmswell ?

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

August

- 25 Elmswell CC v Earl Stonham, League, at The Blackbourne, 2.15pm (Sunday)
28 Toddlers family BBQ from 3pm onwards

September

- 6 7.30pm. Friends of St John's Church Festival - Cheese and Wine & Concert
6 Toddlers Trip to Playworld
7 10am-6pm. Friends of St John's Church Festival - Art Exhibition
8 10.30am. Friends of St John's Church Festival - Annual Service
8 1pm-5pm. Friends of St John's Church Festival - Art Exhibition
8 Elmswell CC v Edwardstone, League, at The Blackbourne, 1.30pm (Sunday)
9 Health Visitor to visit toddler session

September continued

- 12 History Group, 8pm in St John's Church Room. 'A History of Old Stowmarket in Slides' presented by Ron Godbold. Members £1, Guests £2.50.
14 All day! - Annual Sponsored Cycle Ride for Suffolk Historic Churches Trust
16, 23, 30 Soft Furnishing and Upholstery - 9.30am until 12 noon at the Blackbourne
17, 24 Keep Fit for the more Mature - 10.30-11.30am at the Blackbourne
18, 25 Cake icing and Sugarcraft - 10.00am until 12 noon at the Blackbourne
19 Gardening Club, Speaker from Otley College on History of Gardening
25 Health Visitor to visit toddler session
28 Toddlers Nearly New Sale
28 Kiln Meadow Final Cut
28 Gift Day at St John's Church

September continued

- 29 Harvest Festival Services at St John's Church, 10.30am and 6.30pm.

October

- Kiln Meadow Fungi Foray
1, 8, 15, 29 Keep Fit for the more Mature - 10.30-11.30am at the Blackbourne
2, 9, 16, 30 Cake icing and Sugar-craft - 10.00am until 12 noon at the Blackbourne
7, 14, 28 Soft Furnishing and Upholstery - 9.30am until 12 noon at the Blackbourne
10 History Group AGM in St John's Church Room, 7.30pm followed at 8pm by a light hearted review of local press report from the 19th century by Pip Wright. Members £1, Guests £2.50.
17 Mr Sarman on Variegation/ Origin & Types of Plants
18 7.30pm. Concert in St John's Church - Suffolk Constabulary Male Voice Choir
23 Tempest Photos at toddlers

November

- Kiln Meadow Tree Planting
4, 11, 18, 25 Soft Furnishing and Upholstery - 9.30am until 12 noon at the Blackbourne
5, 12, 19, 26 Keep Fit for the more Mature - 10.30-11.30am at the Blackbourne
6, 13, 20, 27 Cake icing and Sugar-craft - 10.00am until 12 noon at the Blackbourne
14 History Group. 8pm in St John's Church Room, a talk by Gwyn Thomas from Bury Record Office on 'Suffolk War Memorials'. Members £1, Guests £2.50.
16 2pm, St John's Church Autumn Fair - Blackbourne
21 Gardening Club AGM

December

- 3, 10 Keep Fit for the more Mature - 10.30-11.30am at the Blackbourne
12 History Group. 8pm in St John's Church Room. 'A Georgian Christmas', an illustrated talk by Dr Pat Murrel. Members £1, Guests £2.50.
15 Toddlers Christmas Party

Tell us more - Tel 241841