

Seventeen years of Parish Record.....
..... Community News and the Communities Views.



The ELMSWELL Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2002

..... Your Parish Matters



*Tales don't come much taller than
Jack and the Beanstalk*

See p.1

Published by the Elmswell Amenities Association Reg. Charity No. 304879.
Delivered free to every household and to businesses in the community.

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PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.

This Month's "COMMENT"

Our 'Comment' column's all in rhyme
To celebrate the pantomime
Performed to entertain us all
For three nights at the Wesley Hall

Th' ingredients were there aplenty -
A cast of thousands, well, say twenty,
'Behind you' ...sounds of slapping thighs...
Community singing, custard pies'...

A dame whose voice seemed manly loud
Yet otherwise so well endowed
With female bits she had to be
Young Jack's old mum, but note that *he*

Was somewhat dainty in his bearing -
Surely he's a girl whose wearing
Boys' clothes? Further we shan't go
It was, they claim, a kiddies' show.

There was magic help from Fairy Nuff
Whose wand and spells proved far too
tough
For Pest Blight's evil murmurings
(Much better than Lord of the Rings.)

The cow, Matilda, full of sauce,
Did well at milking the applause
With dreamy eyes and shapely calves
A beast, distinctly, of two halves.

King Sat-Upon caused woe to Jack
Demanding rent or his cottage back
Hence - sale of cow, beans, Jack defiant
And a rather sweet two-headed giant

Who's 'Fee' and 'Fie' and frightful 'Fum'
Scared the daylight's out of Mum.
But, here the pace got fast and frantic,
He perished and his wealth gigantic

Went to Jack - cue songs and laughter
Prepare for Happy Ever After.
And, as the audience clap and cheer
The cast and crew think of...next year

When Elmswell could once more delight
In a fun-packed pantomimic night.
But help is needed - EADS are few,
They're advertising - could be you!

So, please consider, get in touch,
Offer as little or as much
As you are able - there's no doubt,
It adds up to a great night out.

Jack & the Beanstalk played to four
packed houses at the Wesley Hall at the
beginning of the month. This allowed
over 500 people of all ages to delight
in the colourful traditions of
pantomime executed with talent and
gusto by familiar faces (apart from
Matilda) drawn from the whole range
of ages across the community. The
planning and back stage efforts were
discreetly evident in yet another
thoroughly enjoyable production.

cont..

The cast was; Pippa Larkman, Patrick Reilly, Mike Wyllie, Marian Stevens-Farrow, Marian Wylie, Mike Schofield, Helen Tilney, Sophie Wyllie, Nikki Morgan, James Catton, William Farrow, Lucy Farrow, Amy Wyllie, Keith Farrow, Tom McCreesh and Sam Pitwood.

Additional members of the chorus were; Lia Brown, Jordan Cansdale, Nancy Finch, Jessica Gidney, Erin Martin, Jack McCreesh, Oliver McCreesh, Robert Morgan, Laura Payne, Jasmine Plummer, Nathan Plummer and Victoria Williams.

Behind the scenes were members of the cast and; Sarah Hayward, Jon Schofield, Phil Pursglove, Nick Brooks, Robbie Catton, Geoffrey Hayward, Rachel Canham, Nigel Rogers, Val Wilce, Sara Williams, Anne Cammell, Sandra Gidney, Helen Martin, Tracy McCreesh, Cathy Smart, Rebecca Tomlinson, Sue Dey, Anna Haywatrd, Sheryl Payne, Karen Williams, Alison Schofield, Karen Williams and the Post Office who sold the tickets.

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 13th March.

The deadline for the next issue is 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday 13th March 2002. Copy to Goblin's office on Station Road Industrial Estate or contact: Jean Barker 241135 or Peter Dow 241841.

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

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

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

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

¼ page £15 ½ page £20 Full page £30

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¼ page £18 ½ page £23 Full page £35

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One off ads:

¼ page £20 ½ page £25 Full page £38

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

Around and About ...

CANCER RESEARCH

I would like to thank all the people that helped in the fund raising for Cancer Research. As some of you may know, myself and two other people organised a 70's do at Stowupland Village Hall in November, it was a great night.

We banked all the money for the fundraising for the year and it came to £2,330.

Already, we have received money from the New Years Eve do that Ray Hope, Keith Harrison and friends organised, which raised a large sum of £266, which we thank everyone for coming and contributing.

Thank you again and hope 2002 will be just as rewarding for Cancer Research

Val Burch

KILN MEADOW

We would like to say a big thank you to 24-7 for their kind donation of five telegraph poles, which we are going to use on the site to put some more nest boxes on, and the rest we shall use to make some more seats.

Also another reminder nest box sponsor renewal due in March, thanks.

Alan Thompson

HELPING HAND CLUB

At a recent committee meeting it was decided to re-start the Club on Thursday 28th March at 7 pm at the Blackbourne. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us.

Any newcomers and guests will be made very welcome.

A reminder will be in the March newsletter.

Best wishes,

Stan



ST JOHN'S CHURCH

At the Christingle service on 3 February Mr Peter Neale spoke about the work of The Children's Society. He is the Suffolk Area Organiser for the Society, which cares for children who without the Society's support would have few opportunities of a normal happy childhood. The Music Group and Elmswell Primary School Choir took part and the lesson was read by Mrs Margaret Newman, who is the Hon. Local Secretary.

On 10 February at the Parish Praise service, we were pleased to welcome Revd John Stroud as our preacher. John



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Around and About cont'd., pg3

is the Chaplain at St Nicholas' Hospice and part of his sermon was about the work of the Chaplaincy and about the extension to the Hospice building, which will enable more patients to be treated. He also mentioned the work undertaken with bereaved families. Karen Godfree, who is our 'link' with the Hospice read a lesson and the choir sang 'The Servant Song'.

Our next Parish Praise service will be on 10 March at 10.30am when we celebrate Mothering Sunday.

On 24 March, the evening of Palm Sunday, the Tudor Rose Singers' concert will be at 7.45pm in St John's Church. Admission will be free, but a collection will be taken in aid of the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

Services etc.

Sunday 24 February

10.30am Morning Prayer

11.30am Holy Communion

Friday 1 March

2.30pm Womens World Day of Prayer
(Methodist Church)

Sunday 3 March

9.30am Family Service

10.30am Morning Prayer

11.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 10 March

8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Parish Praise

Mothering Sunday

Sunday 17 March

10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 24 March

10.30am Morning Prayer

Palm Sunday

11.30am Holy Communion

7.45pm Tudor Rose Singers - Fauré
Requiem

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

ST JOHN'S CHURCH TOWER FLOODLIGHTING

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

JANUARY 2002 Sponsorships not previously acknowledged

22 in memory of Kayleigh Wallace .

FEBRUARY 2002 Sponsorships

2 Happy 1st birthday, Simeon
Cromarty

4 for Ken Crook, with love from all
his family

4 in memory of Geoffrey Dalton

4 in memory of Kayleigh Wallace, on
her brother's 2nd birthday

12 in memory of Ted Rookard's
birthday

Wetherden Under Fives



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Sandra Gidney 07971 827522 or
Sarah Paczy 01359 242965

Around and About cont'd., pg5

- 13 in memory of Marjorie Ellen Manning
- 15 to celebrate the 80th birthday of Doris Blakesley, from her great grandson, 'Liam'
- 16 in memory of Ron Last
- 19 in memory of Doris Towndrow
- 25 in loving memory of Peter Carmichael, late of Elmswell, who died 13 January 2002
- 27 Louise Rookard's birthday

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

Preachers planned to lead worship at 10.45am each Sunday:

Feb 24th Revd Stephen Yelland
Mar 3rd Mr Graeme Garden
10th Miss J Nye
17th Mr Colin Francis
24th Revd Stephen Yelland
(Holy Communion)

Ladies Meeting 2.45pm Tuesdays:

Feb 26th Members afternoon
Mar 5th Mr John Bean
12th Mrs Thelma Rogers
26th Pastor Ron Low

Exchange Club meets Tuesday

Mar 19th Speaker Tom Armstrong
Subject Tales of a Mudlark

CLASSIFIED ADS

Are you in need of a reliable babysitter? -
Contact Amy Jarvis on 01359 241958 or 07719914298.

Qualified tutor offers one to one tuition. Accountancy, maths, economics and basic PC skills. All ages, all levels. Call now 01359 245244.

On FRIDAY 1st MARCH the WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER service will be held at our church at 2.30pm. Ladies from all three churches will be taking part, and the speaker will be Mrs Maureen Newcombe. The service this year has been prepared by the Christian women of Romania. All ladies will be most welcome.

ELMSWELL F.C. CLUB SPONSORS

Mirror Group Newspapers
Warm Up Top sponsors
Energizer
First Aid Sponsors Euro Food
Machinery (Elmswell)
Match Day Sponsors
Harris Cuffaro Nichols (Solicitors, Old Harlow, Essex)



a	
b	c

Elmswell Toddlers Nearly New Sale



Maternity Wear
Baby's and Children's Clothes
Baby Equipment
Toys and Books

If you have any things to sell, please contact
Alex Bartholomew on 01359 244692
25% of the sales fees will go to Elmswell Toddlers.
We would also welcome any donations of goods.

a	
b	c

sale £ sale £ sale

sale £ sale £ sale

Saturday 23rd March
12 pm - 4 pm
Wesley Hall, School Road
Elmswell

Around and About cont'd., pg 7

1st Team Sponsors

Mirror Group Newspapers

2nd Team Sponsors

Elmswell Fox

Match Ball Sponsors

Rota-Rod (Bob Barter)

Travelstop (Elmswell)

Stowmarket Golf Club

Tulipa Landscaping (Elmswell).

1st Team Manager (Joint)

A Garnham, T Price.

2nd Team Manager

B Barter. Assistant K Hammond.

(A) Team Manager

J McMillan.

Under 13 sponsors

Abbots Estate Agents (Manager P Case).

Under 12 Sponsors

Allpack (Manager S McCreesh).

Under 10 Sponsors

Village Homes (Manager N Kerry).

Over 35 Sponsors

C G Finch & Sons.

Monthly Draw for February drawn by R Finch:

No 377	J Catling	£50
No 126	A Leeks	£35
No 166	N Howes	£25
No 141	N Plumpton	£15
No 96	D Carter	£15

Results:

Saturday 12th January

First Team: Somersham (Away) won 3-2. Scorers D Hudson, J Irving 2.

(A) Team Rising Sun (Home) won 3-2. Scorers S Warby, S Bessent, S Church.

Saturday 19th January

First Team: Saxmundham Sports (Away) lost 6-2. Scorers P Farmer, D Hudson.

Res Woodbridge (Home) lost 3-0.

Under 10 Glemsford lost 3-2. Scorers S Bass, E Oakes.

Under 13 Pulham won 8-3. Scorers M Hurrell 4, C Rutt 3, J McCreesh.

Saturday 26th Res

Saxmundham Sports (Away) lost 6-2.

Scorers T Warby, G Bendall.

(A) Team Black Boy lost 4-0.

Under 10 St Louis won 4-1. Scorers S Bass 2, E Oakes, S Grainger.

Saturday Feb 2nd

First team Stowupland (Away) lost 3-1. Scorer D Thomas.

Res Somersham Res (Home) Cup won 5-1 A.E.T. Scorers B Hail 3, T Warby, J Irving.

Under 12 Wetherden & Haughley won 3-1. Scorers C Rudd, J Brinkley 2.

Fixtures from Feb 16th

First team Witton United

Away

Res Coplestonians Home

Registered Childminder

Vacancies for children 1 year +. Also takes after school children, near to middle school in Beyton - off main road.

**Mary Hooper
01359 270263**

Around and About cont'd., p29

Feb 23rd

First team Bramford Road

Home

Res Ipswich Postals Away

March 2nd

First team Stradbroke Away

Res Kirton White Horse Home

March 9th

First team Bacton United

Home

Res Tacket Street Away

Under 12 Bildeston Away

March 16th

First team Ipswich Exiles

Away

Res Needham Market (B)

Home

Under 12 Thorndon Home.

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

Training Wednesday nights Grove Lane pitch.

Compiled by H Mulley

ELMSWELL GARDENING CLUB

The new home for Gardening Club meetings is now the New Memorial Library, and thanks to Radio Suffolk 24 members found their way there to hear Mr Roger Harvey talk



on Hellebore's. Now there was a time if you wanted a Hellebore, or a Christmas Rose which sounds so much nicer, you got just the one *Helleborus niger* and all that was required was a semi shaded spot and some very leafy soil and you were away, and if you couldn't provide that they didn't grow well, at least, not very well, but all that has changed. It's a bit like buying a car, you can have whatever you want, there are white ones that don't need the semi shade and white ones that do, there are cup shaped pale green flowers with a pink-tinge, some even have white, pink or purple flowers all coming from the same roots, the combination is endless and now they will grow almost anywhere, but don't take my word for it, pop along and see Mr Harvey on Saturday 23rd February at his Nursery at Bradfield St George when he has an open day.

The competition was won by Mrs Jean Mason with Mrs Muriel Durham second, and Mrs Ruth Armstrong third and it's nice to see the Cup being so hotly contested, but have you noticed that it's the same people on the podium, so come on members, have a crack at it, as next month's competition is for a bowl of Flowering Bulbs, and there isn't a house in Elmswell at this time of year that hasn't

~~ Novelty Cakes! ~~

You create the idea - Let me create the cake!

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Cartoons ✓ Sports ✓ Animals ✓ Hobbies
Anything!...

Around and About cont'd., pg10

got a bowl of bulbs in the window, it will be easy.

Next month's speaker will be Mr Harbutt who will talk about Poppies and they can all be grown legally, as Papaver somniferum will not be amongst them, so I hope to see you all at the New Memorial Library at 8.00pm on Thursday February 21st 2002.

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY, STOWMARKET

Parish Priest:

Father Denys Lloyd,
The Prestbytery,
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, Long Thurlow, Badwell Ash IP31 3JB. Tel: 01359-259944.

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

Tuesdays in Lent: Stations of the Cross at 7pm

'Churches Together in Stowmarket' Lent Group at 7.30pm: Theme 'Called to be Saints' (at Old School Court, Violet Hill Road).

Thursdays in Lent: Stations of the Cross at 10.30am.

Fridays in Lent: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 2pm - 4pm.

Monday, 11th March at 6.30pm: Catechism Reconciliation Service (with individual Confessions)

From the Organisers of the New Years Eve family party at the Blackbourne.

Thanks to all those who attended it was a great fun nights [the conga chain was the longest seen in years].

We raised £365.99 for charity.

Also thanks to the Blackbourne Centre Committee for their co-operation.

Once again many thanks.

Around and About cont'd., p213

Thursday, 14th March at 7.30pm:
Parish Reconciliation Service (*with individual Confessions*)

Sunday, 17th March at 4.30pm:
Stations of the Cross and Benediction.

PALM SUNDAY (24th March):
Saturday evening (Anticipatory Mass) at St. Mary's, Woolpit at 6pm; Masses on Palm Sunday at Our Lady's, Stowmarket at 8.30am and 10.15am.

TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK:
Confessions at 7.15pm.

MAUNDY THURSDAY (28th March)
at 7.30pm: Solemn Mass of the Last Supper, followed by Watch at the Altar of Repose until Midnight.

GOOD FRIDAY (29th March) at 3pm:
Celebration of the Lord's Passion.
Stations of the Cross at 7.30pm, followed by Confessions.

EASTER EVE (Saturday, 30th March) at 9pm: Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter.

EASTER DAY (Sunday, 31st March):
Masses at 8.30am and 10.15am.

N.B. NO Mass at Woolpit this weekend.

ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

Welcome to another month in the life of a village Chapel.

Although we may be a village, and a small Chapel (we are in that weird looking tin building in Ashfield Road), we still have the same enthusiasm and commitment to being at the heart of Elmswell. We have a lot to offer, why not give us a look in your spare time. We have a lot of activities that will suit many.

On Sundays we have our Trailblazers Club for children from 5 - 13 for an hour starting at 9.45am. Following this at 11am we have our weekly services.

At the beginning of next month on Monday 4th March, if you are a lady,

then we can offer you an evening entitled 'Poetry Please'. This begins at 7.45pm, so give us a look, unfortunately Doug (Cricket Club) you are ineligible (I think) even though your poetry talents are quite exceptional, particularly with your Christmas prose.

Every Tuesday if you are aged again between 5 and 13 why not join the Children's club from 6 - 7.30pm (the children attending should have come up with a name by next time). We have a regular 20 children joining in the games and making it their Club, so please support us if you have nothing better to do on a Tuesday, you'll still be home in time for Eastenders!

On Thursdays our house groups meet as normal. This leaves Monday and Wednesday free, or so our secretary thought. We are now starting an Alpha Course on one of these nights; we have

CLAIRVOYANCE EVENING

BY FIONA NICHOLS

**Thursday 21st March
7.30pm PROMPT START
(Doors open at 7.00pm)**

Haughley Park Barn

£4.00

Includes one glass one wine/orange juice

RAFFLE

**Tickets available from
Natalie 01359 240572**

In aid of Wetherden Under Five Pre-School

Around and About cont'd., pg15

six people interested, if you would like to join us then call Tony on 241541.

Our Church Anniversary takes place on February 10th when we will be one hundred and something years old. I can't remember so you'll have to find out yourselves. (That's why I'm never any good at the village quizzes, when I was asked to name the four seasons I shouted out Salt, Pepper, Mustard and Vinegar). We have plenty to offer, we are planning a host of new events this Jubilee year, so help us by supporting us and enjoying yourselves. Until next month I'll leave you with this one thought. Don't wait to do something for another day, life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes. **Mark**

ELMESWELL TODDLERS

A great start to the month with a very generous donation from the Railway Tavern Social Club which was received by Toddlers for the coming year and our thanks goes to them. Thank you for thinking of us again! A fun filled month has passed for the little ones with two trips to Playworld thrown in for good measure which was enjoyed by all (yes, we saw you grown ups charging around too!). Tempest Photos will be with us on Wednesday 27th February at 10am as will be Eastern Frames who will be selling excellent quality frames at excellent prices. Toddlers take a commission from all sales so please spend well! Raffle tickets will also be sold on entry (£1 per strip) for the chance to win a free set of photos. The Nearly New Sale is our next major event and takes place on **Saturday March 23rd 2-4pm at the Wesley Hall.** Anyone wishing to sell any children's items or maternity wear should contact Alex (244692) before 28th February

2002. Donations will be gratefully received but if possible, before the sale date. Alternatively, if you have nothing to sell but little ones to clothe then be sure to make our very popular sale.

By the time you read this, Elmswell Toddlers will have elected a new committee to take Toddlers through to February 2003. Thanks to The Fox for hosting the AGM.

Elizabeth and Alex as ex-Chairpeople, would like to thank everyone who has been involved over the last year with Toddlers - to the committee members and non committee members who have helped enable a smooth running toddler group. An extra special thanks goes to Peter who has fixed broken toys and tables all year and warmed up the hall on those particularly cold mornings and generally who has been around whenever we have needed him. Thank

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01359 241791

Around and About cont'd., p217

you Peter!

To those who didn't manage to make the AGM but would like to play a part in keeping Elmswell Toddlers on the map, then keep your eye on the notice board for the next meeting and make contact with your new Chairperson and committee.

To the new Toddler committee - have a fun year!

Alex 244692

Elizabeth 244229

ELMSWELL CRICKET CLUB

(Sponsored by Manvers Triumph)

It's February. There's not a lot you can say about cricket in February. So it's a month when village cricketers tend to meditate on life's great questions. Where did we go wrong last year? Will those strange, chocolate-



covered, crispy cornflake things be dished up for teas again this year? Will Captain Greathead, even though you have the knees of a 76 year-old Armenian goat-herd, still be so desperate that he needs you to play again? Why, if Buzz Lightyear thinks he's human, doesn't he speak when there are people around? One topic increasingly pondered upon is that of umpires. In village cricket, neutral umpires circulate marginally less often than Halley's comet. So when you're batting then it's your team that provides the umpires... and vice versa. As you might expect, this makes for an acceptance and understanding of decision-making akin to that normally reserved for Israel and the PLO. It's a thankless task - though often your best hope of spending any time at all at the wicket!

But why do it when all you get are angry glares from the bowler whenever you turn down his inane appeals, silent

contempt from the batsman who knows you'll get it wrong sooner or later, and audible contempt from fielders who claim catches whether or not the batsman hit the ball and whether or not they caught it? Only consolation is you're not on TV and so your worst decision isn't instantly replayed in slow motion to the strains of Richie Benaud muttering, "I'll let you make up your own mind about that one!" It must take unfathomable reserves of mental strength - and in David Shepherd's case, about eight meals a day - to be a professional umpire. As sure as Andy Brown will pull something or other in our first match of the season (and we're not talking opposite sex here), we're modest enough to admit that Elmswell players make the most honest and fair officials - unflappable men of sound temperament and unimpeachable integrity. We're more

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Around and About cont'd., pg 19

worried about them others, though. Every season, if not every game, sees umpiring decisions so incredible that, on occasion, physical violence is only narrowly avoided. While Dickie Bird would be the first to admit that good umpires occasional mistakes doth make, bad umpires never do - they merely make them constantly. A bad umpire preys on your mind, sucking out what little batting confidence you have much as Dracula consumes blood. Whatever your mental state as you walk out to bat, it only takes one glance up at a bad umpire to ask for middle-and-leg for you to turn to jelly. "Mustn't let it touch my leg! Mustn't let it touch my leg!" you scream silently to yourself. So you swipe wildly and are bowled. Of course, it wasn't your fault. It was that apology for an umpire, his finger flexing in his pocket, ready for action, ready to ruin your Sunday afternoon (if not the rest of the week) who *really* brought about your downfall. A skilled umpire is equipped with good eyesight, judgement, experience, calmness, intelligence, absence of malice and, not to be underestimated, the ability to count up to six. Bad umpires can only count up to five or seven; it's the seventh ball of the over that bowls you middle stump. Absence of malice is especially important, for the bad umpire doesn't care you've driven 98 miles to make the

match, that your dog died last week and that your wife has run off with your girlfriend. The bad umpire just thinks it would be very funny if he gave you out. Bad umpires have more fun than their conscientious counterparts. Shorter life expectancy seems the only downside. Captains know the importance of good umpiring and so will always send out the top man for the job - the 15-year-old, bespectacled youngster with an NVQ in crochet, snatched from his mother's arms five minutes before the game to make up the numbers. Mercifully, not even your worst opponent will kill someone under 16. They would, though, contemplate serious damage to the more mature professional who might be a wow at quantity surveying but takes to umpiring like a duck to petrol. We really need someone beyond reproach to undertake the task. Any volunteers? With Mr Sparrow having retired, perhaps you'd fancy the job Mark (Baptists)?

Anyway, as I said at the beginning, no news this month ... just too much thinking time. Always a mistake. Don't forget the Race Night on March 23rd at The Blackbourne being run, jointly, by the Bowls, Cricket and Football Clubs (see the separate advert) - miss it and weep!

Doug Reed, Club Secretary
(Tel: 241009)

Monica L. Carlin

MSSCh. MBChA.

Ruth E. Carlin

MSSCh. MBChA.



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Around and About cont'd., pg21

Elmswell CC Century Club

January Draw Result

£15 S Parker (No 112), £10 M Newman (31) and £5 D Sadler £70).

KILN MEADOW NEWS

The catkins have been out for weeks, the snowdrops are in full flower and the birds are pairing up and looking for nesting sites. Spring is in the air - so why not make a late New Year's resolution to get down to Kiln Meadow and join in with some of our surveys and workparties!

Last year our early programme was disrupted by the closure of the site due to the foot and mouth outbreak, but no such problems this year.

Here are some dates for your diary:

Sunday 21 April 9.00am

Early spring cut (rakes and pitchforks provided)

Sunday 5 May 4.30am

Repeat of our incredibly popular DAWN CHORUS Meeting

Friday 28 June 7.00pm

Wildflower survey

Sunday 21 July 9.00am

Summer cut and ragwort pull (rakes and pitchforks provided)

August (dates to be arranged)

Bat watch, pond dipping

Sunday 29 Sept 9.00am

Final cut of the year (rakes and pitchforks provided)

October (date to be arranged)

Fungi foray.

All of the nestboxes have been cleaned and repaired ready for the new nesting season, so now is the time to **renew your nestbox sponsorship** (ring Alan on 241373). Thanks to a donation of redundant poles from 24Seven, we will be able to put up proper kestrel nestboxes this year.

The oak tree, which was partially

pollarded last winter, will be getting its full haircut in a few weeks time. It will look quite bare for a time, but will soon sprout new growth.

Finally, a word of warning about frog spawn. In previous years several people have offered us quantities of spawn from their own ponds and we've been happy to accommodate the surplus in the Kiln Meadow pond. However, this year, as many of you are probably already aware, frogs in this area are being afflicted with a particularly nasty and fatal disease. So, as a precaution, please don't move frogspawn about, and please don't put any in the Kiln Meadow pond. It's better for the spawn not to hatch than to risk spreading the disease around.

For further details about any of the above, please contact Bob Boardman (240171) Mary Feeney (241901) or Alan Thompson (241273).

ELMSWELL MEALS ON WHEELS (W.R.V.S.)

**Drivers Urgently Required for
approximately one hour per
month**

Volunteer drivers are urgently required to join a rota to deliver Meals On Wheels to Elmswell residents.

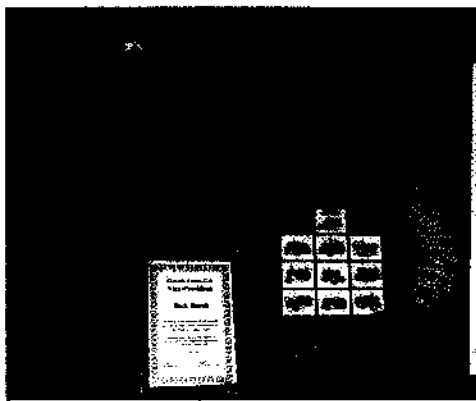
Can you help once a month on Tuesday or Friday on a rota basis.

There is no pay but there is a mileage allowance.

**If you would like to help
please contact Ann Hollings
on 01359 241323**

SUPERGRASS...

Sport in the village owes a special debt of gratitude to Dick Burch who has, for many years, made sure that the playing fields are safe and fit for football, cricket, junior summer school and many more activities. His hours of grass cutting, rolling and skilled groundsmanship were recently recognised by the Cricket Club. At the AGM in the Memorial Library, Dick was made Vice President of the Club and presented with a framed display of vintage tractors.



Our picture, courtesy of Peter Edwards, shows Cricket Club Chairman Graham Newman making the presentation.

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Letters

From Roy Finch

'...community spirit in Elmswell survives...'

I am very pleased to report that, at a recent meeting of the Elmswell Tavern Social Club, the plight of my annual fund-raising for the Woolpit Health Centre was discussed. In the light of the recent Parish Council's rejection of the application for grant aid to help get this year's events off the ground, the Club decided that my team of helpers deserved encouragement and a bit of a leg-up.

I was delighted to receive a cheque for £100 from the Club to help kick start this year's efforts which will, once again, result in a very worthwhile donation to The Friends of Woolpit Health Centre.

It is really encouraging to know that community spirit in Elmswell survives, despite the efforts of a few.

Many sincere thanks to all concerned at The Tavern Social Club.

P.S. The 'Sounds Imperial' Carl Finch Memorial Dance is now sold out.

From George Bryson of Haughley Green

....serious accident....

I recently visited your new village hall for the first time.

On leaving, in the dark, I almost fell over the concrete steps which jut out into the pathway along the side of the building.

May I suggest that this area be lit at night otherwise someone could have a serious accident as the result of this hazard.

Open Letter from Carol Milward to the residents of Elmswell

I would like to thank you for your support and good wishes during the recent by-election.

I am disappointed not to be able to represent you at County Hall. However, my colleagues will continue to work for you in Elmswell and will follow up the concerns you raised during the campaign.

Thank you again.

Letter to Ed (name and address supplied)

...theft...

I would prefer to stay anonymous, but would be very grateful if you would print the following in your next newsletter. It concerns the theft of a garden ornament which has absolutely no monetary value at all, but it is of great sentimental value to me.

I am a resident of Pightle Close and am a little distressed to find that a garden ornament, a cute little yellow duck, given to me by my great grand-daughter some six years ago, has taken flight. It has no value to anyone but me, so if you can help it to be reunited with its rightful owner, both duck and owner would be very thankful.

From GSL Dave Hollings of Gardeners Walk

Elmswell Scout Group

I am very pleased to announce that on the 30th January 2002 we were able to re open our Scout Troop.

We met at the School under the leadership of Jim Coole assisted by a local Explorer Scout Jonathon Schofield.

A total of nine boys arrived for the inaugural meeting, which surpassed our wildest dreams, on first of January I had only had one enquiry for membership.

I hope and pray that they will go from strength to strength and enjoy their time in Scouts.

Whilst writing can I say some thank you's, firstly to Clive Jenkins at Tax Assist Direct who has helped us over the last few years as our Auditor and more recently by providing us with free photocopying, a really useful service.

Secondly I would acknowledge via your publication the fact that Jim Coole our Scout Leader is sponsored by his employer HSBC to assist in his Scout work, our thanks to them.

Thirdly our thanks to Mr & Mrs Moss

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who for many years have provided us with storage facilities for our camping equipment.

Our next challenge is to open an Explorer Scout Section for Boys and Girls aged between 14 and 18 years. If anyone out there feels that they can offer help in that direction, please contact me on 01359 241323.

From Rex Durham of Warren Lane

"The Village is Cleaner"

I refer to a letter in last month's Newsletter under 'Piles of Dog Faeces'. Where are all these piles of dog dirt, I wonder? I walk the village on a daily basis and in the course of a week cover most areas. Walking is done with a dog and I carry with me the means of disposal of any accidental bowel action deposits where people (or children) may walk. Rest assured that any 'awful stacks' encountered make me as angry as any non-dog walker. However these deposits, in my experience over many years in the village, are the exception rather than the rule and in this regard I feel the village is 'CLEAN'. If the lady is experiencing an area where there is a problem and not covered by myself and dog I suggest she write a letter to the Parish Clerk or attend a Parish Council Meeting and request urgent fixing of a special red box for dog poo. However, I should warn her that our council have in hand to scrap these altogether or reduce them in number. Reason, No Dog Warden. If their 'efforts' bear fruit then the lady and her children will really have a problem.

From Ann Hollings of Gardeners Walk

....appeal to residents....

Can I appeal to residents of Elmswell for drivers to deliver Meals-on-Wheels in the village as we are desperately short of helpers, you only have to commit approximately one hour per month.

We have had many years of delivering meals to those in need in the village and it would be a big disappointment and failure if we can't as a community still provide this service to our neighbours in Elmswell.

So please come forward and you will be surprised to find how rewarding it is as these people appreciate your visit and of course the hot meal.

Whilst writing I think that we as a village should thank Mary Renouf who has decided to retire after many years service to Meals-on-Wheels.

Thank you Mary for all your work both as a driver and co-ordinator especially for the last year when you have travelled back from Stowmarket each month to do your turn on the Delivery Rota.

If you would like more information see our advert on page 23 or ring Ann Hollings on 01359 241323

PIGITLE CLOSE GREEN SPACE

Most village people will now be aware that the attempt to have Pigittle Green registered as a Village Green has failed on a rather fine legal point. However the Chairman of the recent Court of Inquiry agreed that the land had been used extensively over the years by residents, despite odd arguments to the contrary and I feel that Elmswell has lost a Village Green.

This is particularly sad for the village, both for the amenity value and also as an open green area protected from development which, as it grows, erodes the 'Breathing space' within roads and bricks and mortar.

However the battle is lost and I would like to thank all those folk who supported the application and said as much at the court of inquiry.

Also thanks to those whose financial support proved invaluable - even today, as I write - thanks John. Lastly, but not least, many thanks to Mr Redford for his personal interest, advice and support over two tough years. Once again, thank you all.

Rex Durham

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LUNCHEON CLUB

Good food, festive cheer and a full house made for a very happy Christmas Lunch on December 17th - and rounded off a very good year

for the Club.

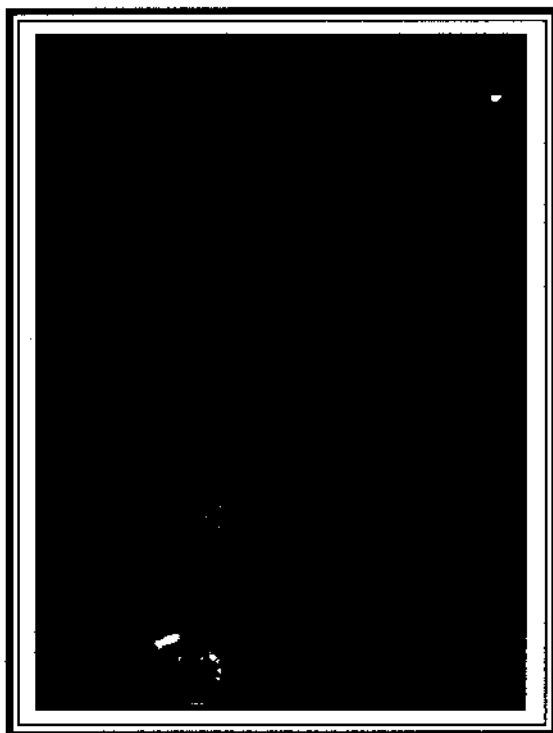
Lots of Christmas decorations, provided by the Club's hosts Trevor and Valerie at the Bull, gave the occasion a real party atmosphere.

Members enjoyed a lavish spread of food with all the trimmings, followed by afternoon tea and the cutting of a magnificent cake provided by Jean

Barker. An extra special raffle draw, organised by the Club's secretary Rosalie Summons, ensured that each member "won" a really

special seasonal prize!

The Club meets each Monday and new members (aged 55+) are always very welcome. The Bull Hotel caters for disabled people and the Club uses



a fully equipped coach to and from the venue.

Full details of the Club's activities from the secretary on 240001.

Grant aid to community building adjacent to the bowls green at Blackbourne

Following a recent meeting of the Trustees of the Amenities Association, attended by 21 of the 23 members, a letter to the Parish Council was authorised which is, substantially, reproduced here.

It is thought that, by making public the Association's thinking in this matter that the community at large may have a full and unbiased picture of the situation.

We confirm that, as has been the case throughout and as has been previously stated on several occasions, the Association remains very willing to consider grant aiding a project along the lines of that originally mooted and for which grant aid from Sport England was earmarked some years ago. The provision of plans and some other detail has finally allowed for a huge step forward. Trustees are, at last, in a position to look at the conditions under which £15,000 might be made available towards funding the proposals.

In principle, therefore, a grant can now be made. The only terms identified by the Trustees as needing to be addressed prior to the funds being confirmed as unconditional are;

1. That written confirmation be secured from Sport England as to the extent of their grant aid and of any conditions which might form part of any such grant aid.
2. That precise final costings covering all modifications, all disbursements and professional fees be made available.
3. That funding be securely promised or in place sufficient to cover the total build cost, all professional fees and disbursements.
4. That the original principle of public access to the toilets be addressed by way of independent access or by way of modifications to the existing access (e.g. flooring) to the toilets.
5. That the toilet provision be modified to include 2 urinals in the Gents and a second cubicle in the Ladies.
6. That there is no phasing of the building programme.
7. That the Parish Council enter into a written agreement guaranteeing no change of use of any of the proposed facility for 10 years without the consent of the Association and that of any other grant making body involved.
8. That The Amenities Association be given Appointee Member status to the Blackbourne Management Association prior to the commencement of

building.

9. That the project be completed before 1st April 2003.

We sincerely hope that you will agree that there is nothing in the above which would not be expected of a Charitable Body aware of its responsibilities in handling public money and charged with seeking to benefit the general good rather than any one interest group.

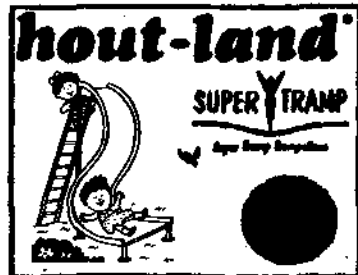
As Trustees we were heartened to be advised of developments and suggest that, in view of the fact that agreement does look possible in the relatively near future, nothing will be gained by pursuing the County Court claim against the Parish Council at this stage. Enclosed please find, therefore a copy of a letter which has today gone to your solicitors and trust that your Council will share the sentiments expressed.

Finally, may I say that we were also pleased to note your offer to talk with our Treasurer about the Newsletter advertising account and he has undertaken to be in touch with your solicitors directly. Your attitude in this, as in other matters, suggests a welcome alternative way forward.

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PARISH COUNCIL

The February Ordinary Meeting was held on Monday 18th at the Blackbourne attended by 20 members of the public.

The following items of interest were among the matters discussed.

Councillors' Addresses: The Chairman, Cllr Ronald Curry, confirmed that the recent issue of contact details of Parish Councillors did not contain the addresses and telephone numbers of Cllr Wood or of Cllr Talbot, both of whom have recently moved out of the village. Until a change in the rules, which is imminent but not yet in place, such anonymity is permitted. Letters to the Councillors in question, neither present for the meeting, would be forwarded by the Clerk if sent to the Vice Chairman's address at St John's House. Cllr Mrs Feeney expressed dissatisfaction at this arrangement as Cllr Wood was on her Advisory Committee and had been unreachable since he left the village. Cllr Birch expressed the view that both councillors should resign.

Blackbourne Repair: During recent work to install coat hooks, a wall at Blackbourne had been rendered unsafe and expenditure had been sanctioned on an emergency basis to clad it with plywood for safety reasons. The work had been carried out by Cllr Harrison, as a self employed contractor, for the sum of £201.70. The lawfulness of the employment of a Councillor by Council was questioned, but Chairman Curry explained that Cllr Harrison had not been employed by the Council, merely asked to do a job and then paid for it. Cllr Burch asked whether this meant that he is now able to quote the Council for paid work which he might wish to undertake. The Clerk is to look into this.

Ethical Conduct: Councillors were made aware that a Code of Ethical Conduct must be in place by May 2002.

Village of the Year: The Clerk briefly outlined the details of this annual award. The Chairman did not feel that an entry from Elmswell need be a high priority.

Housing next to the Station: The appeal against the limit of 16 houses on the site at the railway station where the tin shed has recently been demolished has been successful. The Planning Inspector has restored the developer's original scheme comprising one 2 bedroomed house, three 2 bedroomed flats and eighteen 1 bedroomed flats. In doing so he observed that Elmswell has little clearly defined historic character, that the mill building adjacent to this site is a rare and important example of an agricultural building of its type and that this proposal, which is 4 stories high, will complement the general scene by creating the impression of a 19th Century mill or maltings. He dismissed concerns about possible overlooking of existing dwellings given their distance from the proposal site. He dealt with the observations made regarding the danger posed in terms of highway safety by pointing out that traffic movements will be slow at the railway junction, that the site is already successfully accessed by a number of users and that the County Council Highways Department had raised no objection. He felt that the adjacent agricultural buildings are unlikely to revert to animal use and would therefore not pose any problems of

compatibility. Overall, he felt that the proposal would, in this specific location, enhance the village's character, provide an efficient use of a brownfield site in a sustainable location with good access to public transport and would go some way to addressing the shortfall in affordable housing.

Planning: The Council is to raise no objection to the installation of remote condenser motor units servicing all the refrigeration inside the Co-op to be sited outside just to the right of the front entrance, to an extension at Becket House in Church Road or to work at Newlands in Church Road on some of the lime trees which form the avenue along the road and on which there is a Tree Preservation Order.

Cemetery Maintenance: Cllr Mary Feeney tabled proposals from the committee which advises on environment matters to revise the schedules of work for maintenance at the cemetery and at Crown Mill. The changes are designed to address problems which have been the subject of complaints over the past year and were accepted for inclusion in this year's tender documents which are due out soon. Cllr Burch raised, again the problem of the 'arisings' heap - the soil left by gravediggers which should be periodically carted away in a skip. This has not been done for nearly three years, despite several recent reminders, and is attracting other rubbish. The Chairman promised that the matter will be addressed.

Wheellie Bins: In response to a letter from a resident regarding the desirability of a wheellie bin rubbish collection system being implemented by Mid Suffolk. Cllr Mary Feeney is to seek further details of the options available, including kerbside collection of separate waste and a system allowing householders to choose not to have a wheeled container where this is not appropriate.

Grove Lane Playing Field: Since the Parish Council bought the 7 acre site at Grove Lane for a playing field in 1986, it has remained as the Custodian Trustee with a place on the Committee of Management. Cllr Clark sees no merit in this arrangement and proposed that the custodian trusteeship should be, effectively, given to the 'Official Custodian,' which is a central Government department. He argued that the move had no practical implications but felt that it might help the current Trustees, the Elmswell Sports Advisory Committee in their investigating a possible merger with the Amenities Association. Cllr Marriott did see practical benefits as it would help to dispel the belief in the village that the Parish Council owns the land and should, therefore, be supportive of the users. Cllr Reed, who represents the Council on the Sports Advisory Committee, asked if the Committee had been consulted. Cllr Clark asserted that there was no need to ask their permission and that they had not been consulted. The proposal succeeded by 4 votes to 3 with 2 abstentions.

Parish Council Newsletter: The Parish Council's own newsletter was set up in June of last year as a monthly publication but was recently reduced to bi-monthly issues. Difficulties in finding volunteers for distribution have resulted in the need for an increase in the money allocated to the exercise to cover distribution up to £165 per issue. 5 councillors backed the proposal which will be implemented immediately.

Thedwastre Close Playing Field: Concern was expressed at the state of this area following work by Mid Suffolk District Council to improve drainage to their bungalow at Jubilee Terrace. The work, which was unauthorised, has left a dangerous and unsightly situation adjacent to the play area. The Chairman is to write a letter.

Jubilee Celebrations: A meeting involving several village organisations has decided that a street party should be held on 3rd June. The Council has made application for the closure of Cooks Road for the day, although residents have yet to be consulted.

Drop In Centre: Plans for a drop in centre at Blackbourne are to go to the District Council for Planning Consent. The scheme is provisionally priced at £44,000.

Bowls Pavilion: Building of a new pavilion for the Bowls Club is to begin on 4th March. Funding of 30,000 obtained by the previous administration from Sport England is now confirmed in writing. The Parish Council has pledged £15,000 from the precept (rates). A further £15,000 is pledged from the Amenities Association once certain issues are resolved. Cllr Burch pointed out that there is a shortfall of £15,000, taking into account professional fees and queried the legality of proceeding without finance in place. Cllr Clark suggested that the shortfall is only £10,000 which can come from the Council's reserves if necessary. Any delay in accessing the Amenities grant could also, he confirmed, be covered using money from reserves. The building is currently costed at £71,000 without professional and Local Authority fees.

Next Meeting: The date of the next Ordinary meeting of Council is Monday 18th March at 7.30 in the Blackbourne. Any other meetings will be posted on the notice board at the Co-op.

ABLE DOMESTICS

(PROP. K HARVEY)



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Letter to the editor from Eric Buckmaster, Church Road. (space paid for).

....Mr Alan Wells versus The Recycling Centre....

To the best of my knowledge and belief Mr Alan Wells and I have met only once. We were both early for the Council Meeting that he comments on in his letter in the January issue of the Elmswell Newsletter.

I spoke to him and he quite courteously replied to me. In the six years that I have lived in Elmswell that is one of the things that has always struck me so forcibly about Elmswell is that everyone you meet is pleasant and friendly. If you say good morning or hello you get a smile or a nod and it really is a nice place to live.

Mr Wells letter is unfair, because it does not tell the whole story of the Council meeting that evening, or of recent meetings that have been subject to unwarranted interruption and barracking throughout the meeting, interfering with the work of the council, and the ability of the public to hear what is going on.

I can understand Mr Wells frustration because the Parish Council did not support his application to hang a personal business sign on the new Re-cycling Centre fencing.

The Re-cycling site was built and paid for out of Village funds and if Planning permission could be obtained, any one of the Elmswell residents would be equally entitled to hang signs there.

I would love to put up a sign that says to Train passengers ' Alight here – It's a nice place to be'. But neither sign is needed on that fencing and I'm sure that Mr Wells is not an unfair man.

....The Parish Council....

It is possible that I will be identified with the Parish Council, but I am not as has been suggested, brainwashed by them, nor by any of the other warring factions that have plagued the village over the past 2 ½ years. I join in because I wish to help and hoped to provide some middle ground that would get rid of the conflicts real or imagined.

The Council meeting that is the subject of Mr Wells complaint was not slipped in to avoid public attendance. Ordinary Parish Council meetings are conducted on the third Monday of every month. If more planning applications come in from Mid-Suffolk Council than can be dealt with at ordinary meetings, then the Parish Clerk has to call extra Planning meetings to meet the date pressures on these Applications.

The Council meeting was conducted quite properly. It is perhaps not always fully understood that Planning permission or Refusal is the responsibility of Mid-Suffolk District Council.

It is an extension of the Democratic process and to utilise local knowledge, that Planning applications are referred out To Parish Councils for comment. They try always to be fair and objective, but obviously cannot please everyone at all times.

As to the temper of the Councillors, I think any one of us would be much more terse or short if we had been the subject of the unfair criticism and distorted twisted reporting that has been applied since this Council was elected, and particularly when it is overlaid by the recent spate of barracking and interruption of the meetings they are trying to conduct.

When this Parish Council was first elected a number of them were perhaps inexperienced. There was no friendly hand-over from the out going administration, and I am sure they would be the first to admit that there are some things they might have done differently.

Primarily they sought to reduce the Annual Precept (rates), and they asked the special interest groups to be self supporting, but were still pledged to help them if necessary.

The Council have stuck to their job and please or offend, Parish business has been properly conducted, and much more might have been achieved were it not for the running interference.

....Elmswell Newsletter....

Since this is a letter to the Editor may I please make an appeal.

When I first came to Elmswell the opening Comment column was provided by Guest Editors, and looking back at old numbers shows that we were treated to a variety homilies and subject matter that was pleasing to read,

Can we please return to that arrangement.

Also in my opinion nothing should appear in the Newsletter that does not carry a name.

Whoever is reporting on the Parish Council should put their name to the Report. It is in my opinion unfair to comment and slag off one's fellow citizens without having the courage to put one's name to it.

What's On in Elmswell ?

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

February

- 20 Elmswell Toddlers trip to Playword - morning
- 20 Elmswell Toddlers Adults AGM in The Fox, 8pm
- 23 Sausage Supper at St John's Church, 7.30pm (Friends of St John's)
- 27 Elmswell Toddlers, Tempest Photos with Eastern Frames, 10am (Wednesday)

March

- 1 2.30pm, Womens World Day of Prayer Service
- 12 Elmswell W.I., Blackbourne, 7.30pm, "Felicity Hat Hire"
- 14 Elmswell Millennium History Group. Michael Stone. 'What did Agricultural Labourers actually do?', 8.00pm, St John's Church
- 23 Elmswell Toddlers Nearly New Sale, 2-4pm at Wesley Hall
- 23 Race Night at Blackbourne. Entry from 7pm - First Race at 7.30. Elmswell Bowls, Cricket and Football Clubs
- 24 7.45pm, St John's Church Fauré Requiem (Tudor Rose Singers)

April

- 11 Elmswell Millennium History Grou. Angeal Care Evans. 'Sutton Hoo', 8.00pm at the Blackbourne

May

- 17 7.30pm, St John's Church Organ Concert (John Cooper)

June

- 29 Cream Tea Summer Fete

July

- 6 2pm, St John's Church Summer Fete at The Cedars
- 12 7pm, Friends of St John's Church AGM and Supper

September

- 6 Friends of St John's Church Festival - Cheese and Wine & Concert 7.30pm
- 7 Friends of St John's Church Festival - Art Exhibition
- 8 Friends of St John's Church Festival - Annual Service 10.30am
- 8 Friends of St John's Church Festival - Art Exhibition

October

- 18 Concert in St John's Church - Suffolk Constabulary Male Voice Choir 7.30pm

November

- 16 St John's Church Autumn Fair - Blackbourne 2pm

**Tell us more -
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