

Seventeen years of Parish Record.....

..... Community News and the Communities Views.



# The ELMSWELL Newsletter

JANUARY 2002

..... Your Parish Matters

*A Walk in the Wildlife ...*



the New Years Day Walkers at Kiln Meadow - See 'Comment' p.1.

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## **This Month's "COMMENT"**

**THE NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK** has happened every year since, we think, 1987. It was the natural spin-off from the interest in our footpath network which was generated by 'The FEW' - the Friends of Elmswell Walkers. This entirely unofficial and anarchic group of villagers responded

to an initiative from the then Parish Council working with the community to 'reclaim' the paths, many of which had degenerated to the point where they were unusable...even if you knew where they were, which not many people did.

A hint of the group's activities was given at the recent Public Enquiry which, sadly, failed to stop the loss of one of the paths to public use. Work parties, the Inspector was told, would trek across ploughed fields (always sticking to the path) carrying railway sleepers to be installed as bridges over ditches. Suffolk County Council gave them a strimmer, so impressed were they with the work of the group...and strimming there was, along with hacking, snipping, lopping and other technical operations. Ways were marked, signs posted and landowners reminded of their duties. Maps and walks were published and, under the gently indomitable guidance of 'Footpath Officer' Joan Hunter walks were walked. Every couple of weeks, walks were walked, until the footpaths no longer needed clearing - they were being used!

The change in emphasis on the Parish Council has not benefited footpaths, but the New Year's Day Walk, a genuine people's event, goes on. This year there were 78 walkers and Dick Burch, who has walked the paths of Elmswell all his life, lead them down Spong Lane, off Church Road, to the Kiln Meadow Wildlife Area. Many had not yet visited this impressive site - another 'people's project', and a prize-winner at that! From here they followed footpath 16 past the Anglian Water works on to Kiln Lane and across Warren Lane to Sandy Lane which leads into Wetherden. Over the Wetherden Road by the Chapel, the group used the permissive path on the set-aside land back to Elmswell to reach the brick bridge over the railway at Eastern Way towards Blackbourne Meadow and, walking down behind the estate houses, to emerge, 4.22 miles (at 2.4 m.p.h.) from the start, at the level crossing.

The majority seemed less interested in the mechanics of the railway gates than in getting over the road to the Fox. Their judgement proved to be sound. It was

warm and welcoming, and, although relatively new hosts, John and Yvonne had grasped the spirit of the traditional occasion...sausage rolls and hot mince pies all round helped ward off the impending reality of tomorrow's-the-first-day-back-at work.

Read about Elmswell in the Press and it is easy to forget the good bits, when our community comes together as we did over the winter break. Many such events were advertised in your Newsletter, parties and get-togethers both sacred and secular... all now gone, but the effect they have stays as an important fact of neighbourhood life - of real 'politics.' The New Year's bay Walk is but one such event - bridge building, of one sort or another, since 1987.

The date's easy to remember - book it for next year?

**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 Gobblins, Station Road Industrial Estate. Please include your name and address and a telephone contact number - our next deadline is 13<sup>th</sup> February.

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

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

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

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# Around and About ...

## **WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

The start of another year, and the majority of Elmswell W.I. members and some guests listened and watched with interest as Graft Rowland told of the work and aims of "operation raleigh" and showed many colour slides of working teams in action, and some of the colourful countries where help had been given.

He also praised institutions and organisations who helped individuals to participate in these ventures, mentioning Victoria Jupp, a student with family in Elmswell, who was taking part in a nine month charity project in South Africa, where she will help to promote community development and help raise awareness in H.I.V. and A.I.D.S. Elmswell W.I. had given her a donation towards funding the "2000 needed for this venture.

Our President Anne Dyball also announced some of the many events we were looking forward to in the next few months.

A day-school in march to learn water

colour painting, a county quiz evening, trips to the theatre, a calligraphy course, walks and a barbecue, surely something for everyone.

Why not join us? On the second Tuesday each month at Blackbourne Hall at 7.30pm

## **ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH**

Happy New Year, how's the diet going. As always I begin the year with a round up and then a look ahead to this year. Last year we held some extra events, we had our normal services every week, Trailblazers ran also, along with the Ladies Friendship Group. We held a beetle drive, an Alpha Course, began home groups, installed a PA and loop system, gained a new notice board, started a new club for children on Tuesday nights, ran a football coaching session in the Summer, held a packed out parade service for Harvest, well over 40 for our candlelight Christmas service and we took part in a variety of village activities. We welcomed several new people through our doors, and are looking ahead to another good year for



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**Clive Jenkins. Tel/Fax 01359 242284**

## Around and About cont'd., p23

the Chapel.

Our new childrens club continues to prove popular with a regular 20 children being entertained with games and refreshments on Tuesday evenings.

The name for this is being chosen by the group and I will let you know it once we have voted for the favourite. I don't know if he's cheating but our secretary seems to have a knack of being in the winning team every week.

I'm still recovering from a bad back from the first week (I haven't hopped for about 20 years). If you want to join in the so called "fun" we start at 6pm for an hour and a half. Our ages range from 5 - 13 so we cater for all.

The ladies Friendship Group meets on the first Monday of February (4th according to my Ipswich Town FC

calender - no Charlie Dimmock one this year I'm afraid). They will meet at 7.45pm for an evening of crafts. (some of them are crafty enough).

Our Trailblazers continues at 9.45am on *Sundays*, for children of all ages. This links in with our Tuesday club, so if you cannot attend on a Tuesday, or would like to come to this as well, give us a look for an hour on a Sunday morning.

Our weekly services continue at 11am each week, give us a look, you can hear us now.

Our home groups start up again on Thursday 10th January, so if you cannot make Sundays, attend somewhere else, but would like to meet up with a group of us during the week in an informal atmosphere give this a look at 7.45pm.

Give our secretary a ring if you need to know whose house we are invading that particular week - but be careful - it could be yours ! ! ! !

Finally thanks to the cricket club for the free advert in last months column, I knew the triple brandy, crisps, sweets, £10 bribe and a hypnotist would work. If you missed out on our beetle drive, we will be holding another social evening soon. I have also heard rumours that the cricket club were keen to hold their own - we'll be ready if you think you're brave enough ! ! - although we will have to bring our weighted (sorry white) dice.

See you soon, if not before

**Mark**

PS. Thanks for the card Doug, and the Christmas poem, I shall return the compliment soon - watch this space.

### Wetherden Under Fives



Pre school (age 3-5) and  
Rising 3's (age 2½-3)

#### Open:

Mondays, Tuesdays,  
Thursdays and Fridays  
9.00am - 12.30pm

A secure, happy place where learning  
to socialise, share and develop is fun.

We accept nursery grants.

#### Contact:

Sandra Gidney 07971 827522 or  
Sarah Paczy 01359 242965

## **Around and About cont'd., p25**

### **CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY, STOWMARKET**

Parish Priest: Father Denys Lloyd  
The Presbytery  
29 Lockington Road  
Stowmarket IP14 1BQ  
Tel: 01449 - 612946

#### **MASSTIMES:**

##### **Saturdays**

(First mass of Sunday), Woolpit C of E Parish Church, 6pm

##### **Sundays**

Stowmarket (Our Lady's Stricklands Road), 8.30am & 10.15am

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

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

##### **Holy Days**

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

Weekday Services in the parish are listed at the front of the church at Our Lady's and in the weekly Newsletter. If you are unable to contact Fr Denys and need a Priest in a hurry, please telephone either 01284-754358 pr 01473-741975.

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

## **CLASSIFIED ADS**

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

### **METHODIST NEWS**

Our Christmas and new year services were all well attended and enjoyed. We were very pleased to welcome some who were visiting their families in the village to our celebrations.

Our regularities are now in full swing. It is good that our very good premises and facilities are in use almost every day, by many of our village organisations.

**Our Ladies meeting, as usual at 2.45pm on Tuesdays have the following speakers booked:**

Jan 22 Mr Stephen Roe  
Jan 22 Mrs Maureen Newcombe  
Feb 5 Revd. Stephen Yelland  
Feb 12 Mr Alan Newcombe

### **Elmswell Millenium History Group**

*- you've seen them do it on Time Team, here's your chance to have a go yourself -*

#### **Colin Pendleton**

From Suffolk Archaeology Unit will lead a

#### **Field Walk**

(recovering archaeological material from the field surface)

**on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February  
10.00 - 12.00**

*With kind permission of  
Peter and Kate Over*

Meet in St John's Church Room

Booking & Boots essential :  
Maureen Dow 240390

## **Around and About cont'd., pg7**

The third Tuesday of each month the Exchange Club meets and on February 19<sup>th</sup> Pat Crawford will speak on Guide Dogs for the Blind.

### **Sunday service at 10.45am - Preachers:**

Jan 27 Revd. Stephen Yelland  
Feb 3 Mr Gordon Steed  
Feb 10 Mr Stephen Roe  
Feb 17 Mrs Maureen Newcombe  
Feb 24 Revd. Stephen Yelland

### **ST. JOHN'S CHURCH**

**Services etc.,**

#### **Sunday 27 January**

10.30am Morning Prayer  
11.30am Holy Communion

#### **Sunday 3 February**

9.30am Family Christingle Service  
10.30am Morning Prayer  
11.30am Holy Communion

#### **Sunday 10 February**

8.00am Holy Communion  
10.30am Parish Praise

#### **Sunday 17 February**

10.30am Holy Communion

#### **Sunday 24 February**

10.30am Morning Prayer  
11.30am Holy Communion

Sunday School every Sunday except 1st Sunday in month

### **St. John's Church**

St John's Church was once again the venue for the Village Carol Service, on 19th December - so many people took part it is difficult to single out any individual item. However, thanks are due to Charles Rudland who once again organised the event - the 25th - he has now relinquished the task; we are all most grateful to him for undertaking all the arrangements for this well loved event in the Village calendar for so many years on behalf of the Elmswell Fellowship of Churches. As is usual on this occasion the collection was in aid of Save the Children Fund and £167 was raised.

The Candelit Concert on 21st December was a great success - the St John's Singers, led by Graham Tilney

## **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

sang several Christmas songs including 'Sing Lullaby', Elmswell Primary School's songs included 'Happy Birthday, Jesus', Margaret Hodgson sang 'Mary's Cradle Song' and there were Christmas readings from Carolyn Blackman and Jean Folkard - the evening ended with everyone joining in 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' and 'Ding Dong, Merrily on High'; the collection raised £318.50 for St Nicholas' Hospice.

We also celebrated Christmas in the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, Christmas Eve Holy Communion and the Christmas Day Family Service; these services were all well attended and we pray that the Spirit of Christmas will stay with us throughout the coming year which will possibly bring about great changes at St John's as John, our Rector for almost 24 years prepares for his retirement. We know that the many people in Elmswell who have reason to be thankful for John's ministry here will be thinking of him and his wife Penelope at this time.

**On 3 February** there will be a Christingle Service in the Church at

9.30am. The music group and Elmswell School Choir will be taking part and the speaker will be Peter Neale from The Children's Society. The Society is the fourth largest children's charity in Britain and its *philosophy* is simple - that every child deserves a chance in life.

**On 10 February** at our 10.30am Parish Praise service the preacher will be Revd John Stroud - John is the Chaplain at St Nicholas' Hospice.

Several members of St John's Choir also sing with the Tudor Rose Singers (leader Eileen Jones); the Singers will be presenting a performance of the Faure Requiem and Brahms' Alto Rhapsody on Palm Sunday at 7.45pm in St John's Church. Admission will be free but there will be a retiring collection. Refreshments will be available.

### **The Friends of St John's**

At the time of writing all the tickets for the Sausage Supper on 23 February have been sold! Apologies if you were unable to book for this there will be

~~ **Novelty Cakes!** ~~

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## **Around and About cont'd., pg10**

plenty of room for our next event · on 17 May in the Church. John Cooper, who was until fairly recently organist and choirmaster at St Mary le Tower Ipswich will be giving an Organ Concert. Tickets and more details nearer the date....

### **ST JOHN'S CHURCH TOWER FLOODLIGHTING**

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

#### **DECEMBER 2001**

##### **Sponsorship (Correction)**

15 to celebrate the marriage of Daniel Edward Kent to Emma Michelle McNight

##### **DECEMBER 2001 Sponsorships not previously acknowledged**

24 for Pat

28 in loving memory of William (Bill) Farrow

##### **JANUARY 2002 Sponsorships**

5 Stella Sinclair, widow of Norman Sinclair.

In memory of her birthday

10 In memory of Kayleigh Wallace on her Daddy's birthday. XXX.

11 In memory of our little angel, Kayleigh Wallace, who fell asleep on 11.01.99.

We miss you so much. XXX.

13 for Ann Thorby. Remembered by us all.

19 In memory of Hewes Orford

22 In loving memory of Rob Dalby on your birthday

23 In memory of Ricky Woolnough's birthday

29 In memory of Kayleigh Wallace on her Mummy's birthday. XXX.

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

### **Stolen Charity Box**

"Would the person who removed the Methodist Homes collection box, from the counter at Elmswell Post Office, during the Christmas period please return it, preferably with the contents." Jill

### **ELMSWELL BOWLS, CRICKET & FOOTBALL CLUBS**

## **RACE NIGHT**

**Saturday 23 March 2002  
at The Blackbourne**

Entry from 7pm -  
First Race at 7.30pm

Bar and Raffle

**Tickets £3.00 available from:**  
Ian Tullett 242874,  
Graham Newman 240846,  
Barry Hayward 240951

## Around and About cont'd., pg13

### ELMSWELL FC

Elmswell F.C. Club Sponsors  
Mirror Group Newspapers  
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Machinery (Elmswell)  
Match Day Sponsors  
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### 1<sup>st</sup> Team Sponsors

Mirror Group Newspapers

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Team Sponsors

Elmswell Fox

### Match Ball Sponsors

Rota-Rod (Bob Barter)

Travelstop (Elmswell)

Stowmarket Golf Club

Tulipa Landscaping (Elmswell)

### 1<sup>st</sup> Team Manager (Joint)

A.Garnham T.Price

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Team Manager

B.Barter Assistant K.Hammond

### (A) Team Manager

J.Mc.Millan

### 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 January

#### Drawn By Bob Barter

No	29	B.Hatton	£50
No	276	E.King	£35
No	162	P.Burch	£25
No	62	M.Courtney	£15
No	41	D.Brill	£15

### Results

#### Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

First Team Bacton Away Lost 5-0

#### Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

First Team St.Clements Hospital  
(Home) Won 1-0. Scorer D.Hudson

Under 13 Wetherden & Haughley

Drew 3-3. Scorers S.Thorold,

M.Hurrel, C.Jarvis

Under 10 Brandon (Away) Lost 3-2.

Scorers S.Bass, S.Morris,

### Fixtures From Jan 19<sup>th</sup>

first team	Saxmundham Away
Res	Woodbridge Ath. Home
Under 12	Bildeston Away

### ELMSWELL MILLENIUM HISTORY GROUP

PRESENTS

## "IT'S A GRAVE BUSINESS"

A NOT SO GRAVE ILLUSTRATED  
TALK, ON THE SUBJECT OF TOMB  
AND GRAVESTONE DESIGN -  
HELPFUL FOR FAMILY HISTORIANS

BY

## PETER DRIVER

8.00PM THURSDAY FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>  
ST JOHNS CHURCH ROOM

MEMBERS £1.00 : NON-MEMBERS £2.50

EVERYONE WELCOME

ENQUIRIES: MAUREEN DOW 240390

## Around and About cont'd., pg15

**Jan 26<sup>th</sup>**

First Team Murry Rangers Home

Res Saxmundham Away

Under 12 Thorndon Away

**Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

First Team Stowupland Away

Res A.F.C. Hoxne

Under 12 Wetherden

**Feb 9<sup>th</sup>**

First Team Saint Eds . 65 Home

Res Benhall St. Mary Away

Under 12 Thorndon Away

**Feb 16<sup>th</sup>**

First Team Whitton United Away

Res Coplestonians 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**

### HELPING HAND CLUB



The club is taking its annual winter break just now. Hopefully we will commence again at the end of March. More details in the February newsletter.

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of our chairman (Malcolms) mum. Shortly after the xmas party and also of our dear club member Mary Wheeler very soon after xmas, on behalf of us all at the club we would like to send our very deepest sympathy to both families. Until next month, keep warm.

Best Wishes,

**Stan**

### KILN MEADOW WILDLIFE SITE

As you probably see in newsletters of last year. The site was entered into a wildflower competition, of which we received a "highly commended" certificate.

I am pleased to say that it is now proudly displayed in the new memorial library.

N.B. Forward thinking.... Renewals of all nest box sponsorships due in March.

All enquiries to

**Alan Thompson**

**01359 241373**

**Sat 16<sup>th</sup> February**  
**8pm**  
**Valentines Disco**  
**At**  
**Haughley Park Barn**

**Tickets £5**

(includes chicken & chip supper)

**BAR: entry by ticket only**

For tickets call

**Sarah 01359 242965**

**Alex 01359 244692**

In aid of Wetherden pre-school

## Around and About cont'd., pg19

Blackbourn would present few problems. Would it need watering? I doubt it. Would the pitch break up? On the contrary, you'd need a pneumatic drill to make any impression at all. Fielders could glide across the outfield (sometimes literally). It'll never happen though. The psychology of sporting misery is too powerful. This is why the British are so good at inventing sports, or adapting sports to make them worse - because we understand so well the psychology of sporting misery.

The football season has to go on all year because the nightmare of following a *useless* football team must be never-ending. Ask any ITFC fan. Without the relentless momentum of crapness the illusion that football has any purpose at all would soon crumble. Cricket is different. It is the 'summer game'. If the weather's only slightly less dement than a bad night on Cape Horn that's just bad luck. But if the *winter* turns out to be twice as warm and sunny as the summer, that's also bad luck. It's no coincidence that it always rains solidly for the last two weeks of the season, or that a balmy Indian summer always kicks in the following day! Such ironies are small beer to anyone who

has ever been caught out on the boundary by an eight-year-old. We know that those crisp December days would be ideal for cricket - not especially warm, mind you, but bright and windless enough to keep you alert. It's because they would be ideal that we can never play then. There must always be too much football; and never enough cricket. Not that my wife (nor any other partner, I'm sure) would agree...

So what now then? Well, we've had our AGM. This resulted in momentous and radical changes. OK, so the Chairman's the same (Graham Newman) and the Secretary likewise (moi). Then the Captain's the same, and the Treasurer (Stanley King), and most of the Committee...but the meeting did last a few minutes longer than in 2000. Most significantly, we must welcome our new Vice-President, Mr Dick Burch. The Club wanted to honour Dick for the tremendous work he has done for the Club over a long period. A small presentation was made to him...before he cycled off to "The Fox" for a vice-presidential beer. Last but not least, we have to report the results of the 'Christmas Quiz' sheet, so ably set this

Monica L. Carlin MSSCh. MBChA.

Ruth E. Carlin MSSCh. MBChA.



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## **Around and About cont'd., pg21**

year by our Chairman whose love of obscure facts knows no bounds. When did the last bullfight take place in this country? What's the second name of the Chairman's wife's third cousin twice removed who emigrated to Australia in 1972 and hasn't been seen or heard of since? Anyway, although over a hundred were sold just 12 people submitted their answers (as many as 12!!). With a *truly* remarkable score of 91, John Scott of Stowmarket took the £25 first prize. Bottles of wine went to Emma Farrow (Stowmarket) who scored 89, Rob Linnett 81, Florence Reed (King's Lynn) with 80, Eileen Brooks 78 and Ian Tullett with 77. Thanks to all who

bought a sheet and helped us with our fund-raising.

**Doug Reed, Club Secretary (Tel.: 241009)**

### **TOTTY CASTELL POOL CUP**

This year, the annual competition was won by Michael Peachey who played Chris Owen in the final. Neil Osborne and Nick Harris were the semi-finalists. Thanks from organisers Roy Finch and Marilyn Castell to all who took part and to Chris Marchant for once again staging the competition at the Railway Tavern. As a result of everyone's efforts £200 was raised for The St Nicholas Hospice.



### **We hate to lose an advertiser, but ...**

Monica & Ruth Carlin of Woolpit, both qualified Surgical chiropodists, have advertised with us for some time their surgery and visiting practice. They write to tell us that they have stopped advertising because, *'we are both so busy and do not need to advertise any more ...'*

Sad, but softened by their kind observation that, *'Your Newsletter has been a great help in establishing the business and if, in the future, we need to advertise I will contact you ...'*

Remember that your Newsletter is entirely supported by the advertiser. Do give them your support wherever possible, and let them know that their adverts are working.



*From Alan Wells of Wells Stitched Embroidery*

## **....disgusted by the way that the meeting was conducted ...**

I have read reports both in the Newsletter and the papers regarding the peculiar attitudes and antics of the ruling group on our Parish Council. I have heard tales from people who have been at the meetings of their arrogant and aggressive approach. I took it all with a pinch of salt. It can't be that bad. I went to a Council meeting on 6th January. It is all true! If anything, I found it to be worse than I had expected.

I went to hear discussion about a planning application I have made.

Regardless of how that went, I was so disgusted by the way that the meeting was conducted that I had to make it known during an adjournment of the meeting how the proceedings had been a travesty of anything reasonable or democratic.

Go along and see - you will observe;

- The Chairman, Cllr Curry, being rude and aggressive to members of the public - making personal remarks to which they are not allowed to respond as the meeting is in session.
- The Vice Chairman, Cllr Clark, rudely shouting down other Councillors who dare to disagree with him - a real bully!
- A failure to take into account relevant issues as properly raised by the public or by 'lesser' councillors - the Chairman knows best and he lets the meeting know it!
- Confusion as to procedures; to the extent that the whole thing seems muddled, undemocratic and entirely run at the whim of the Chairman and Vice Chairman.
- No chance at the end of the meeting for the public to comment on the proceedings - take it or leave it!

Surely this can't be right? But they quietly slipped in this meeting so that only 4 members of the public are there to see. With 3 councillors living miles away from the village and the others seemingly too dispirited to fight back it is time for more of us to go along and see for ourselves - then let them know what a mess they're getting us into.

*From Bill Owen of Blackbourne Road*

## **.... Grant Aid Policy ....**

On page 34 of the December 2001 issue of the Newsletter reference was made to the Parish Council's policy on grant aid and to an application from a young person seeking help with an educational travel project. The application was apparently refused on grounds that any grant given was not likely to be of benefit to the parish.

Firstly, I must declare an interest as the applicant was my granddaughter and, secondly, the description that she was seeking help for an educational travel project is misleading as it doesn't describe accurately what she was seeking the grant for. She has, in fact, been accepted by the charity, Students Partnership world-wide (No. 292492) and will spend nine months in Africa, living and working in a rural village in

the Eastern Cape, raising awareness for on HIV/AIDS and promoting sexual and general health. The commitment required to undertake such a task, while it may be educational, does not mean it qualifies as a travel project. Neither is it a holiday. The young volunteers are supported by the South African Department of Education and by the UK's Secretary of State for International Development as a worthwhile attempt to change behaviour patters using "peer education" to help young people protect themselves through informed education.

Since leaving high school my granddaughter has obtained a university degree in social policy and, since completing that degree, has worked for the Cyermians in a hostel for the homeless and disadvantaged. To her credit her intention is to increase her knowledge and experience in another difficult and challenging environment. To do that she has to make a personal financial commitment to the programme run by the S.P.W. The cost of that amounts to £2800. She has saved some monies from her own small wage while further monies have come from a very generous donation made by a prominent organisation in the parish and from many of her neighbours in Warren Close and from friends, businesses and well wishers in the parish and elsewhere. I would like to thank all of those who, without hesitation, supported her financially and gave her encouragement. In addition she spent most of one day on a sponsored bicycle ride in ASDA Supermarket which, through the generosity of many of the store's customers, raised even more money. At no time did she assume that financial help would be forthcoming without any effort on her own behalf.

Due to her efforts and with the assistance of many generous people, she did raise a substantial part of the monies required. The balance of the overall cost she will have to finance herself from her own and her family's resources.

She is now in South Africa and, like many other young people, she will be able to express in a practical way her concern and compassion for others that goes well beyond the narrow and parochial view that apparently motivated the Parish Council in deciding that any financial aid must, in some obscure and unspecified way, be of benefit to the parish. If that is correct then in my opinion it is a spurious reason to refuse her application for a grant and is one that has not been resorted to when other applications for grants have been considered and approved recently.

*Letter to Ed. From Anna McGowan*

**.. Make Elmswell a tidy and safe place...**

Elmswell looks even prettier every year around Christmas time. It should have been a simple pleasure just to walk around admiring the tastefully decorated houses and trees with their sparkly lights and other Christmas novelties. Unfortunately, I have had to keep my eyes firmly glued to the ground for fear of stepping into a pile of dog poo. What a nightmare it must be for children eager to take out their roadworthy Christmas presents. For example, whilst developing my children's traffic awareness skills during their first scooter lessons, I had to instruct them on how to avoid riding through these awful stacks and nearby skidmarks. The increasing nuisance problem is reminiscent of scenes out of the Dark Ages, where outdoor hygiene was probably non-existent.

Is it now a sad fact of life that a short walk around the village turns into an obstacle course?

Moreover, some people seem blissfully unaware that their uncultivated bushes are sprawling over pavements to such an extent that it is impossible for pedestrians to pass without stepping off the pavement itself. Whether on corner bends or narrow pavements, these ghastly bushes have a very sharp protruding twigs at the eye level of children, who walk past them every day to get to the primary school.

I know it is not a nice subject for us to read or think about, but there is most certainly a growing concern about the appalling state of neglect, surely in this day and age, we do not have to put up with it. So let us do something about it. Perhaps our newly elected members will take up the issue too!!

So come on gardeners and dog lovers, isn't it about time we put the children and pedestrians first, and make Elmswell a tidy and safe place for all to enjoy!!

*Letter from Margaret Newman of Warren Close*

### **Foreign Currency**

Many thanks to the residents of Elmswell for the excellent response I received to my plea in the November issue for obsolete foreign coins that have been replaced by the Euro.

Your donations have been passed to The Children's Society and their funds will be swelled by well over £200.

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## PARISH COUNCIL

### 9th January

An extraordinary meeting was called for Wednesday 9th January and was attended by just 6 Councillors and 4 members of the public. The only substantive items on the agenda were 3 planning applications. Two of these were largely procedural, for a porch and new garage at Stowe House in Cross Street and for the retention of two existing portakabins at the Bacon Factory. Councillors raised no objection.

**Wells Stitched Embroidery** - The third application was for an advertising sign on the fence of the recycling centre at the station, arranged so as to advertise Alan Wells' business, Wells Stitched Embroidery. His original sign, on the wall of his unit on the industrial estate, is now obscured from the station side by the recently relocated recycling facility. The Chairman, Cllr Ronald Curry, began the discussion by disparaging the applicant for not having correctly completed the paperwork and went on to argue that, as the Parish Council's permission would eventually be needed for the placing of the sign should it gain planning consent, then the two matters must be determined together. The Vice Chairman, Cllr Clark, argued against representations from the applicant that there was no alternative site appropriate, asserting that, having looked at the site he was convinced that the existing sign could be effectively relocated on the applicant's building.

Both Councillors agreed that an approach to Council prior to the application would have been appropriate, and Cllr Curry argued that the claim that the business had suffered from the loss of advertising was not supported by copies of trading accounts.

Furthermore, it was suggested that permission, if granted, would open the floodgates to other potential advertisers on the estate. Cllrs Burch and Feeney supported the applicant as being the type of small business deserving of encouragement and support and supported the argument that the situation was unique to this business and that a precedent could not be argued from the granting of permission in this case.

The Chairman decided on taking two votes. On the matter of the Council giving permission for the siting of a sign, Cllrs Burch and Feeney voted for, Cllrs Crook and Rowlands abstained and the Chairman and Vice Chairman voted to oppose. There being an equality of votes, the Chairman's casting vote determined that permission would not be granted. On the matter of the planning application, the situation was unchanged, the decision to oppose the proposal being taken by Cllrs Clark and Curry. At the close of the meeting the applicant, having ensured that the

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Chairman's tape recorder was switched off, took forceful issue with the Chairman and Vice Chairman. He presented a letter from the Parish Clerk dated 19th July 2001 which had not only discussed the possibility of a sign but pointed out the need for a planning application. This gave the lie, he maintained, to the claim that he had not tried to approach the Council directly. The letter had, apparently, never come before Council. He also argued that the suggestions for relocation of his sign were fatuous and implied that no worthwhile site inspection had been made. The Chairman could find no adequate response to the points made but thanked him for his contribution including his determined assertion that the Councillors concerned clearly did not know what they were doing.

**Bowls Pavilion** - In the light of a letter from the Bowls Club pointing out that the changing rooms in the proposed pavilion are far too small, the Clerk has forwarded the plans to Sport England for the comments. The previous Parish Council administration had secured funding for a scheme in 1999 from Sport England, but it had not, until now, been pointed out to Sport England that this original grant of £30,000 would be directed towards new proposals of which they were unaware. The plans have also been forwarded to the Amenities Association from which grant aid is also to be sought when costings and the overall grant aid situation are to hand.

**Cllr Marriott** - Cllr Mrs Feeney raised her concerns that recent replies from Council to Mr Alan Crouch regarding the possibility that Cllr David Marriott had misrepresented himself as speaking, with another Parish Councillor, on behalf of the Council. He is alleged to have done so to the Suffolk Constabulary Fraud Squad in support of his own misguided suspicions relating to certain village organisations. She argued that, until this matter was aired fully and publicly, the whole of the Parish Council stood in danger of being brought into disrepute. The Chairman refused to discuss the matter further on the grounds that there was nothing further to say and nothing to be gained. On the matter of the same complainant querying remarks made in the Chairman's Annual report, Cllr Curry argued with Cllr Rowlands that this should be a report passed by full Council and that this would be the case in future. The complaint centres on Cllr Marriott's unsupported and unhelpful assertion, reprinted in the Newsletter, of 'evil in the village.'

**Footpath to Woolpit** - Cllr Curry confirmed that he had been misquoted in a recent newspaper report. The Parish Council has had nothing to do with the proposed new cycle/footpath to Woolpit and has not undertaken to fund the purchase of land to accommodate the proposals.

**Public exclusion** - The Clerk confirmed that it was her understanding that her threat of exclusion of members of the public, should their manners not improve, would apply to all public present, not just to any individual offenders.

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**County Court action** - The public were excluded from the meeting to allow Councillors to discuss the latest developments in the case involving the Trustees of the Amenities Association. After heated procedural wrangling the meeting was adjourned without progress until further notice.

## **21st January**

The Monthly ordinary Meeting was attended by 9 Councillors and 18 members of the public. The following items of interest were among those discussed.

**Cllr Talbot** - Mr Paul Peachey, as a member of the public, welcomed Cllr Talbot to the meeting following his recent very sudden and mysterious departure from the village. Mr Peachey was assured by the Chairman that the Clerk was in possession of addresses for all Councillors and would forward them on request.

**Planning** - Councillors raised no objection to an application for an extension to Gemcot in Hawk End Lane which effectively increases the size of the bungalow from two to four bedrooms. District Council Planning approval was noted for developments at The Bungalow, Cross Street, Stowe House in Cross Street and at Suffolk Meat Traders site in Grove Lane.

**Parish Council Office** - It was agreed that the Council should pay to the Blackbourne Management Association £20 per week for the use of the office which was recently converted from one of the changing rooms at Blackbourne.

**Accounts** - Cllr Doug Reed queried the lack of accounts which Councillors had not seen since July. Chairman Curry assured him that the problems with the new computer problems are overcome and that the accounts are available to September but that there is some catching up to do.

**Kiln Meadow Wildlife** - Cllr Clark's proposal that the management of the wildlife site at Kiln Meadow should be taken on by Council through a Working Party was discussed in the light of a plea from Alan Thompson, one of the frequent volunteers who have maintained the site since its inception in 1994. Mr Thompson argued that a heavy-handed approach, as had been the case with the Council's dealings with various village bodies, most notably the Lunch Club, could prove very destructive to a system which works very well and which benefits the community without recourse to 'management'. Cllr Ronald Curry, supporting his Vice Chairman's proposal, promised that this was not an attempt to go back to Cllr Marriott's early attempts to impose inappropriate rules and structures on the volunteers who are, Cllr Feeney pointed out, ideally organised in a very loose and flexible way to deal with the special requirements of conservation work. She went on to observe that all work was within the management plan drawn up by the

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Suffolk Wildlife Trust and that all relevant agencies, including Anglia Water, were delighted with the prize-winning results of the project. Cllr Dick Burch supported the view that Council interference would alienate the volunteers. Cllr Reed pointed out the unique nature of the project, unlike any other management task in the village such as the cemetery, and urged the restoration of the regular reports which the volunteers were willing to resume should the Councillors wish. The proposal was roundly defeated, Cllrs Clark and Curry finding no support at all. There was applause from the public who were warned by the Chairman for their exuberance.

**Blackbourne Management Association-** The BMA was set up by Council to avoid the payment of rates on the building at Blackbourne. The much criticised Constitution of that body was presented in revised form for Councillors' approval. Two members of the public are to be elected at the AGM to give some accountability beyond the representative members. Cllr Mrs Mary Feeny queried the retrospective nature of some clauses which simply covered the failure of the BMA to stick to the rules of the original constitution. The dates of the financial year and of the first AGM are to be changed, she observed, although they have already happened. Chairman Curry accused various Councillors of 'slowing the process down by asking questions.' He cut short the debate which Cllr Reed sought on this contentious statement.

**Bowls Pavilion** - A letter is awaited from the lottery grant aiding body, Sport England, confirming that they will still make available for the Council's new plans the money which was granted to an earlier scheme for a pavilion with changing rooms and public toilets at the bowls green on Blackbourne. A letter from the Amenities Association was read out which included a copy of their correspondence with Sport England seeking speedy clarification of the position so that Trustees of the Association may properly consider their grant aid position. Cllr Clark presented plans which have been altered to address reservations raised by the Bowls Club and it was decided that copies should go to the Association. It was further decided to accept the lowest of four tenders for the construction of the building in the sum of £70,780. Should all funding be in place, there would be a shortfall of some £10,000. The cost of professional fees is not yet included in the calculations but, Cllr Clark confirmed, phasing is not an option. Cllr Reed was ruled out of order in suggesting that Councillors were being asked to commit considerable expenditure on the basis of price alone without the chance to assess the best option in relation to other factors. He attempted to refer back to previous meetings when it had been promised that the decisions on this matter would not be pushed through in haste, but the Chairman referred him to the Clerk who can let any Councillor see documentation by appointment on Tuesdays and Fridays. The proposal to accept the lowest tender was passed with the abstention of Cllrs Reed, Feeny and Burch.

**County Councillor** - Mrs Jane Storey introduced herself as the new representative at Suffolk County Council following her election by, as she pointed out, the narrow margin of 9 votes. She dealt with several highways issues and was questioned by the public on several more.

**Behaviour at Meetings** - The Clerk once again reminded the public present that Council would have recourse to the Courts should manners at meetings not improve. The Chairman reminded Councillors that he might have to enforce Standing Orders with action against Councillors who fail to recognise His authority.

**Next Meeting** - The next Ordinary Meeting is scheduled for Monday 18th February at 7.30 at Blackbourne. All meetings are posted at the Co-op. The Public are, for the moment, entitled to attend.

# What's On in Elmswell ?

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

## January

- 2 10-11.30am, First Toddlers session of 2002
- 28 Elmswell Toddlers trip to Playworld - afternoon
- 31 Thursday, 7.30pm, Elmswell Amateur Dramatics Society presents 'Jack and the Beanstalk', Methodist Church Hall

## February

- 1 Friday, 7.30pm, Elmswell Amateur Dramatics Society presents 'Jack and the Beanstalk', Methodist Church Hall
- 2 Saturday, 2.30pm Matinée and 7.30pm, Elmswell Amateur Dramatics Society presents 'Jack and the Beanstalk', Methodist Church Hall
- 3 9.30am, St John's Church Christingle Family Service
- 12 Elmswell W.I., Blackbourne, 7.30pm, Talk on 'East Anglian Childrens Hospice'
- 14 Elmswell Millennium History Group. Peter Driver. 'It's a Grave Business', 8.00pm, St John's Church
- 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)

## 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
- 23 Race Night at Blackbourne. Entry from 7pm - First Race at 7.30. Elmswell Bowls, Cricket and Football Clubs
- 25 7.45pm, St John's Church Faure 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

**Tell us more -  
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