

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



The ELMSWELL Newsletter

JUNE 2002

..... Your Parish Matters

ELMSWELL OPEN GARDENS

Sunday July 21st 2002

Sponsored by Guus Hamel, Garden Design

18 Gardens Open from 1.00 - 6.00pm

Admission to Gardens by Programme only
Obtainable from the Methodist Hall at £2.00

AFTERNOON TEAS, GRAND DRAW, and PLANT STALL
PLUS CHILDREN'S TREASURE HUNT

Donation to Woolpit Health Centre

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Delivered free to every household and to businesses in the community.

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PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.

This Month's "COMMENT"

from Neil,
"the Web Chap in Elmswell"

Over the past couple of years I haven't made any personal comment on this web site. This was mostly due to the mistakes I made when I first opened the site - mistakes that were quickly rectified. I tried to ensure that the site was as neutral as possible as it was the only web portal about the village in Elmswell and I had to act in a responsible way to the outside world.

After the recent article in the Parish Record regarding the Elmswell Community Web Site, I feel that I have to respond in some way. The Parish

Council recently voted 5-3 to pay a local company £2,375 of our money to develop a web site. OK, good stuff, I like spending other people's money too but let's examine things a little closer shall we?

"The contract was awarded to a local company called cnb.co.uk"

Never heard of them (him: Ian Duncan) as there isn't a web site at www.cnb.co.uk until I searched really hard on the Google search engine and found this web site www.club-noticeboard.co.uk and had a look around. Some of the sites that are hosted there look good, while the others look like the work of my daughter (youngest). Let's give Ian the benefit of the doubt as I'm sure that he will do a sterling job.

"It will at the click of a mouse button give users access to street and footpath maps.."

I did that years ago...

"...a village business directory.."

Hey, I did that too, with pictures.

"...as well as a clubs and groups directory."

Wow, what a coincidence, I did that also...

"Details and information about the village school,"

Hmmm. I can see a pattern emerging here..

"...Library and other community services,"

Hang on...

"Similar to that provided in the "Welcome Pack"

Stop it, I've heard enough! That was what I based a lot of the information on within this web site quite openly, giving credit to the source years ago. Trouble was that they never did produce another Welcome Pack which meant stagnation of the information within this portal.

"The site is so as to be self-sustaining within the first two years of its life, this hopefully will be achieved from advertising."

Good luck. Personally, I think you have more chance of getting re-elected at the next Parish Council election (i.e. slim to non-existent). There is only a very small amount of revenue to be gained from the Internet, and the answer is only obvious to those who have run web sites before (take a look at www.elmswell.co.uk and see what happens when some silly beggar tries to make money from our village name!). There are only so many people (20% would be a good guess for Elmswell) that have access to computers and the Internet and when they have a spare few minutes they have a look for personal matters of interest. It could be the family name, the company that they work for, a football team and maybe even the village/town that they live in. They find the web site they are looking for, have a look round and generally don't bother coming back. Why not? Because a high percentage of the information held there is the same every month, whereas Factsheets, Newsletters etc. have new information in them every issue. They are available to all,

portable, easy to read and can also be used to light fires with. This all means that companies are going to get a poor return on their advertising outlay compared to traditional methods. This is not just a personal opinion, but a matter of fact borne from so many dot com failures.

"A Heads up in that the site address is hoped to be elmswell.info.co.uk"

Are you sure about that? Never heard that info.co.uk was an intended domain extension and ICANN haven't reported any changes. It's more than likely going to be elmswell-info.co.uk or elmswell.info.com perhaps, but who can say. My personal recommendation would be www.anappallinguseoflocalfundsever.co.uk. Get it now - it's available.

Please don't get me wrong. I don't have a problem with the Parish Council having a web site. In fact, it's imperative for local people that they do, as long as it reports just the facts and isn't used as a political tool to try to enhance their image at our expense (like the Parish Record). But they have wholesale stolen every idea that I have spent personal time putting together. Some things are bound to cross over, such as a links page etc. but this is certainly more than a coincidence. I know that the same people who have put together the basis of this web site have also been routing around this one - your details are logged every visit. Why don't you think of something of your own instead of pinching other people's ideas? I suppose one thing that won't be duplicated is the downloadable images of the Elmswell Newsletter!

The web site can now be found in the following locations.

www.elmswell.org.uk

www.elmswell.info

www.elmswell.org

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 10th July.

The deadline for the next issue is 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday 10th July 2002. Copy to Gobblin's office on Station Road Industrial Estate or contact our Editors: Jean Barker 241135 or Peter Dow 241841. The Amenities Association, which publishes the Newsletter, will try to find space for all contributions, regardless of any point of view expressed, if space permits and providing that they are legal and that the writer's name and address are included.

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

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

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

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

¼ page £17 ½ page £22 Full page £33

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N.B. Photographs £10 extra.

**Classified Ads: 30 words maximum
£5 cash with order.**

Around and About ...

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY, STOWMARKET

Parish Priest:

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

MASS TIMES:

Saturdays (First Mass of Sunday)

Woolpit C of E Parish Church, 6pm

Sundays

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

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

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

Holy Days

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

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

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

ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

The summer's here, nights are pulling in, soon be harvest. We continue to evolve at the chapel, and if you haven't been in lately then it's about time you gave it a look. We now have a carpet, so you can wear your slippers or socks (unless like mine you have a hole in every pair). It didn't quite get to blows when deciding on the colour and I think you'll find it matches well with the rest of the décor

without Carol Smilee's intervention. You won't hurt your knees any more now, or drop your collection through the holes in the floorboards, although I think I shall miss the draught blowing up my trousers in the winter. Of course it's not the interior of the building, but the people inside it that makes a place welcoming so come and join us, newcomers are welcome and you can let us know if we have made the right choice.

Our CU club on Tuesdays will finish the same as the schools last week of term. We aim to go out with an evening full of food and wine, for more info contact Tony (see our n board) or turn up between 6 and 7.30pm to join at least 20 others. The evening includes plenty of fun, games, shouting and messing about (and that's just the leaders). Now that

ELMSWELL CRICKET CLUB

"WE NEED MORE PLAYERS..."



Whether you're an experienced cricketer or just starting out - come and join us

Please contact:

Nigel Greathead, Captain (240029)

Doug Reed, Secretary (241009)

or

Graham Newman, Chalman (240846)

See the Club's article elsewhere in this newsletter

Around and About cont'd., pg5

summer's here we hope to have a few outside activities whilst the weather's good (we'll be indoors then).

Every Sunday at 11am our weekly services continue, and all are welcome. Our tape library continues to grow, and so does our list of musicians. If you would like to play on a weekly basis, in whatever instrument you are skilled at, speak to Mark on a Sunday or phone our secretary during the week and we will tell you more. The summer gives a few of us a chance to recharge our batteries as both the Ladies Friendship group and the CU club takes a break for a couple of months.

Enjoy the summer whiling away the long nights watching the cricket. I notice their correspondent was away again last month, I suppose he has to get his rest up, it's a long walk backwards and forwards to and from the pavilion. (Sorry but I hadn't mentioned you for a few months.)

Wetherden Pre School's

OPEN DAY

**Tuesday 2 July 2002
10am - 1pm**

Come and see us at play!

Bouncy castle, crafts, picnic etc.

For more details contact:

Sandra Gidney,
Pre School Leader
07971 827522

If you are visiting Elmswell this summer give us a look, we are just past the railway gates and the bacon factory on your way out of the village along Ashfield Road. You'll recognise us by the corrugated iron frame and wooden doors, we also still have the shed at the back to tie your horse to while you spend your time with us (we think of everything!!!).

Both the new décor and the people should pleasantly surprise you inside however. Finally we say a sad goodbye to Gayle and family, they are off to pastures new (job related, nothing to do with us) so we wish them well and thanks for all your support over the last year - we shall miss you.

See you soon if not before.

Mark

ELMSWELL TODDLERS

Elmswell Toddlers welcomes mums, dads and everyone else to bring their toddlers along at Wesley Hall situated along School Road.

It's a safe environment for your children and there are plenty of toys to keep them occupied. The group is twice a week, Mondays 1.30pm till 3pm and Wednesdays 10am till 11.30am. Mondays seem to be a quieter session than Wednesdays, so it's up to you if you prefer to come on one or two days a week. It costs 80p a session, the first session is free. Tea, coffee, juices and biscuits are provided inclusive.

The toddler group is run and events organised by the committee and everyone helps out with making the teas and tidying the toys afterwards and it doesn't seem like a chore because of the friendly atmosphere.

We appreciate Sue Rochford for coming up with innovative ideas leading up to the Jubilee.

The Jubilee went well with a big turnout with Liz and others keeping the children



Around and About cont'd., p27

occupied making crowns and handprints which was just part of the celebrations.
John Whatling (Committee member).
Tel: 241933.

ELMSWELL GARDENING CLUB

The Chairman opened the meeting by reminding members that the clubs Annual Open Gardens on Sunday July 21st was fast approaching, and that every effort would have to be made if we were to be as successful as last year, and that he hoped we would, as the committee had made the decision to give a donation from the proceeds to Woolpit Health Centre. So we are urging the entire village to support us for this noble cause, all the details of the event are on the front page of the Newsletter you have in your hand. The Annual Outing to Hever Castle was now fully booked but the Outings



committee were taking a reserve list of names, just in case of any last minute cancellations, so to get added to the list phone Elmswell 240347.

This months guest speaker, Mr Wheeler, gave a very detailed talk on the growing and planting of Alpines.

It was obvious that Buttonholes are the forte of our Lady members judging by the size of the competition entry, it was nearly a case of having to guarantee the safety of Mr Wheeler before he would judge them, and he decided that Mrs Maureen Cruickshank should take first place and Mrs Marguerite Lankester second with Mrs Jean Mason in third place, well done as usual to all other entrants.

The Chairman reminded members that next months meeting would be on June 20th at 8.00pm here in the Library and the speaker would be Mrs Robinson talking on Unusual and Rare Plants, but

Badminton Club at Elmswell ??????

It is proposed to set up a Badminton Club facility at the Blackbourne Community Centre.

To ensure that there is sufficient Village support for this sport, would all interested persons please contact :-

**Eric Buckmaster, St. Nicholas, Church Road,
Elmswell, IP30 9DY.**

Telephone/Answer phone/Fax. 01359 245148.

Around and About conf'd., pg9

as the Newsletter is getting distributed later each month it may well be all done and dusted by the time you read this.

SERVICES etc., AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Sunday 23 June

10.30am Morning Prayer
Sunday School
11.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 30 June

10.30am Holy Communion
Sunday School

Saturday 6 July

2.00pm Annual Garden Fete,
The Cedars, Warren Lane

Sunday 7 July

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

Friday 12 July

7.00pm Friends' AGM
Concert & Supper

Sunday 14 July

8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Parish Praise
Sunday School

Sunday 21 July

10.30am Holy Communion
Sunday School

Sunday 28 July

10.30am Morning Prayer
11.30am Holy Communion

St John's Church

Church services and other events are carrying on as usual although we are now without a Rector. If you need to speak to a Minister, to arrange a wedding, baptism or funeral or for any other reason, please contact a Churchwarden in the first instance. Mr Derek Blackman (01284 754501) or Mrs Valerie Rogerson (01359 240510) will be pleased to help you.

On Saturday 6 July we have our Annual fete at The Cedars, Warren Lane at 2pm. All the usual stalls, plus Juggling and Unicycles, Bouncy Castle and a Live Band to play your requests.

Christian Aid

Thank you to everyone who donated so generously during Christian Aid Week; £1096.12 was collected in the house-to-house collection, £104.60 from Church collections and the Methodist Coffee Morning, making a Grand Total of £1200.72. Unfortunately not all the envelopes could be collected in the permitted time owing to illness; if you would still like to donate to Christian Aid, please let Jean Folkard know (242099) and someone will call to collect your donation.

The Friends of St John's Church - Elmswell

The Annual Meeting of the Friends will be held on Friday 12 July in the Church at 7pm. This will be followed by a concert

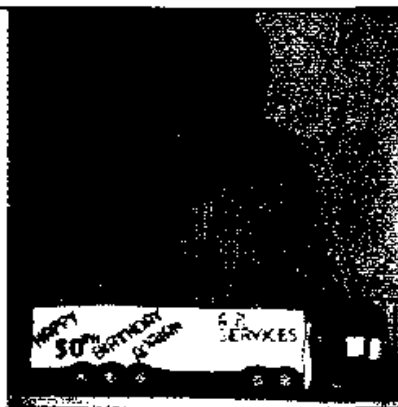
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Anything!...



Around and About cont'd., p210

by La Dolce Gamba and a Salad Supper. Please book for the concert and supper - tickets available soon from J Folkard.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH TOWER FLOODLIGHTING

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

JUNE 2002 SPONSORSHIPS

- 1 in loving memory of Amy Pleasance's Birthday
- 9 in memory of Vic Fuller's Birthday
- 17 in loving memory of Thomas Robertson
- 19 in memory of Dorothy May Bloomfield
- 28 to celebrate the marriage of Tony Redit to Cindy Waterson
- 30 Nan Stagg. In loving memory of your 85th Birthday.

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

ELMSWELL CRICKET CLUB (Sponsored by Manvers Triumph)

A friend of mine filled in one of those personality questionnaires that, typically, appear in women's magazines (or so I'm told). Quite why is anyone's guess. Come to that, why he'd bought the magazine is equally puzzling - must have been for the rugby page. Anyway, he got to a question which said "What is your best quality?" He pondered for a bit. Then scratched his head (forgetting he was using a Lumocolor permanent marker). Thought some more. Paced around his front room. Finally, he sat down and wrote 'indecisiveness'. Then crossed it out. I mention this only because I'd like you to try the following questionnaire:

1. Are you male or female?
2. Can you stand upright (give or take)?

3. Could you, if push came to shove, either run a few feet or manage to shout "Yours"?
4. Do you look good in white - or even remotely presentable in any shade thereof?
5. Are you able to moan, mumble, shake your head in disbelief and/or look totally bemused?
6. Are you tired of spending hours on a Sunday afternoon eating cream teas, going round garden centres, and generally enjoying yourself?

If you answered 'yes' to any of the above then we need you. We've lost a few regular players and need some more. When I say 'lost' I don't mean mislaid! Even our skipper can go to other villages and manage to count to eleven before leaving again. We do know where they are but the problem is, they ain't here. Some, apparently, have collapsed lungs and ruptured spleens, thereby rendering them only able to play golf. Some have taken against the crispy chocolate-covered

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., pg13

Cornflake things that we get for tea and have opted for supposedly healthier concoctions elsewhere. One or two (no names ... unless they pay up) have discovered the worst non-cricketing phenomenon of all. Yep ... women!

You know how it is. You meet someone, fall in love and introduce her to your friends and parents. She introduces you to her friends and parents. It's going OK so you set up home together and haunt DIY shops on late-opening Thursdays and hold dinner parties in which you try to pair off single people who would rather eat raw sewerage than be paired off with each other. But still you haven't shown her what you do on Sundays. You disappear at 1.30pm with a bag of foul-smelling cricket equipment which, being a 90s-sort-of-a-guy, you have insisted on washing yourself - only you haven't quite got round to it yet - and back you trundle

at 8.30pm, tired, sweaty and disillusioned with a huge purple mark on your thigh and a serious groin strain. Will she be suspicious? Sooner rather than later she wants to see what you're up to.

You're playing cricket ... rather badly. Being sensible, you want to delay this moment as long as possible. The relationship is working well so why ruin it? Love is founded on mutual respect and, if you're lucky, bundles of Euros (no bundle too small). Respect is inextricably tied up with pride and dignity but there is little that's dignified about village cricket - especially, the way *you* play it. Chasing an opponent around with a raised stump is just not an endearing quality, especially when the woman of your dreams (or your girlfriend) is watching - waiting for you to do something impressive. So, basically, you mumble something about quality of life, and give up your cricket in favour of your partner and Sunday afternoon walks to Great Ashfield and all points north.

Where does this get us? Essentially, in need of players! You, in particular. We need you - irrespective of age, gender, ability, location, physical fitness ... whatever. Even if you can only play occasionally rather than being able to commit to games week after week. If you've any interest at all please contact myself (as below), our Captain, Nigel Greathead (Tel: 240029) or the Chairman, Graham Newman (Tel: 240846). We'd be delighted if you'd join us - the more the merrier. As they say on "Crimewatch" - "We're waiting for your call..."

Latest Results

League: Edwardstone 167 for 8 (Jamie Nickless 3 for 47); Elmswell 141 for 7 (Stephen Froud 38 not out). Lost by 26 runs.

League: Worlington 256 for 4; Elmswell 162 for 9 (Steve Jordan 57, Doug Reed 25, David Peachey 25). Lost by 94 runs.

WEDNESDAY 20th JULY
2.00-6.00PM
THE SQUARE, WINDY LAKE

- Bouncy Castle
- Live Band
- Juggling & Unicycles
- Cake Stall
- Plant Stall
- Tomhole
- Raffle
- Ice-Cream
- Tea & Tans
- Flip-a-Frog

Around and About cont'd., pg15

League: Elmswell 147; Cavendish 150 for 8 (Reed 2 for 17, Ben Whatling 2 for 23). Lost by 2 wickets.

Friendly: Elmswell 62 for 6 (Reed 20 not out, Steff Parker 19 not out); Stowmarket Under 18s 65 for 4 (Dean Rust 2 for 6).

Doug Reed, Club Secretary (Tel: 241009)

Elmswell CC Century Club

April Draw

£15 J Bassett (86), £10 C Reilly (46) and £5 J Dodds (50).

May Draw

£15 M Peachey (101). £10 L Reed (55) and £5 B Edmonds (98).

LITTLE ELMS FUN FACTORY

We have a **NEW** chairperson! Debbie Brannick has kindly come forward to run our committee.

Unfortunately, due to a backlog at Ofsted, we are still awaiting notification of L.E.F.F. inspection date. Until this is arranged, we cannot proceed, so the opening will not commence in July. However, we expect to open by October half-term and future school holidays so watch this space.....

Our Open Day - July 9 - is cancelled.

We as a committee would like to thank Sarah Jobbins for all the hard work and time she has dedicated to L.E.F.F. to get us this far.

Please continue to support the pre-registration forms if you are interested in further info.

WETHERDEN PRE SCHOOL

Summer Term news

This term we have been enjoying some of the various occupations which people from the local environment do for a living. We have explored jobs such as post person, looking at how our letters get to our doors, and even a zoo keeper, which incorporated a trip to Banham Zoo, with

the excitement of an animal encounter allowing us to experience "hands on" with the likes of a giant snail and a gecko to name but a couple. During this half term we hope to visit Elmswell Fire Station to discover the hard work our fire fighters do. There will also be a visit from two police officers - a dog handler and a traffic police officer and term will end with a "moving" photographer. Watch out for the village notices - all welcome.

As with all small village pre schools/playgroups, fund raising is a vital part of our survival. The committee were sad to hear of so many people who objected to our "Clairvoyance Evening". On a more encouraging note, however, this night raised the pre school a staggering profit of £633 which is the most we have ever raised at a single event. It was a fun evening enjoyed by ALL that came. Monies raised for this is to be spent on the pre school garden which will develop the outdoor environment for all of our children - present and future.

More recently, Wetherden Pre School ran the Grand Raffle at the Woolpit Steam Rally raising over £300. Our other successful fundraiser this year has been a Sponsored Slide in which each pre school child was encouraged to participate. They were each awarded a Certificate of Achievement and in return Wetherden Pre School was rewarded with over a fantastic £700 in sponsorship monies. This money has been spent on new classroom furniture and some Rainbow panels to create a quiet "listening corner" with tape machines and story tapes. (And on that point, if you are having a sort out, any unwanted story tapes and books for the school would be much appreciated.) Our thanks to everyone who has supported these fund raising events.

For those of you who were fortunate enough to purchase a ticket for our Family Disco last November, you'll be

Around and About cont'd., pg 16

pleased to hear our next Family Disco (with Hot Shots) is set for Saturday 13th July 2002 from 6pm-9pm at the Blackbourne. Family tickets (parent/s plus own children) can be purchased for a very reasonable £5. Watch out for the posters around the village...

We have a lot of Elmswell children at Wetherden now mainly thanks to the success of Little Elms and thus their limited places. Both Elmswell and Wetherden pre schools are working in what I like to think is a close partnership with the Elmswell School Nursery. Recently we have even decided upon shared record keeping in line with Government Guidelines.

If you'd like to visit us, then join us for our Open Day on Tuesday 2nd July 2002 from 10am-1pm. Come and see how we run and join in the morning's activities with all that "mucky stuff" you don't want to do at home! There will be a bouncy castle kindly donated by Chrissy's Castles

(many thanks to Chrissy and Tony Chapman, past Pre School parents!). Bring a picnic if you want and join us all for lunch. Alternatively, if you would like to visit the pre school at any other time, we are open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9am until 12.30pm and welcome children aged rising 3 up to 5 years.

Regards

Sandra Gidney (Pre School Leader)

Tel: 07971 827522

HELPING HAND CLUB



Our June 23rd meeting

was an insight into the world of Punch & Judys. Although not there myself, I gather it was a very entertaining evening.

Our June 6th meeting was in the form of a Jubilee social evening.

We were superbly entertained by the over 55's concert band from Ipswich who played a wide variety of music, plus a very humorous conductor who also allowed our treasurer and a club member to have a go at conducting the band. The hall was beautifully decorated and the evening also included a superb buffet supper prepared and provided by the committee.

Sincere thanks to all the committee, helpers and members who helped to make the evening such a memorable one.

We were also lucky to have with us two of our club members who were married the previous Friday. Our very best wishes to them both for many happy days together. Until next month. Best wishes. Stan

KILN MEADOW WILDLIFE GROUP

Recent visitors to Kiln Meadow may be wondering why there has been no activity on the site, especially at this usually busy time of year, with the nettles and docks already knee-high and still growing.

We are sorry to report that all work on the site has had to be suspended because

Chrissy's
Bouncy Castle
Garden Marquees
and
QUALITY CROCKERY
HIRE

Crockery - Cutlery
Glassware - Cake Stands

Telephone
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Around and About cont'd., pg19

of insurance difficulties. Problems associated with the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11th and with the growing trend in public liability claims have also affected the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, who have insured the site for the last two years, and they have been forced to withdraw their insurance scheme. Consequently, at the end of last month, through no fault of our own, we found ourselves without insurance cover.

The BTCV have now set up a new scheme. With the help of the Parish Clerk and some members of the Parish Council, the volunteers tried to take prompt action to subscribe to the new scheme from the earliest possible date so that there would be no break in cover. However, the new scheme is much more expensive than the old one and the Chairman and Vice Chairman refused to authorise the

payment. The volunteers are dependent on the financial support of the Parish Council, so we can only hope that a majority of councillors will eventually vote in our favour.

At the time of writing, we are still awaiting a decision from the Parish Council. We are still without insurance cover, and we are still unable to work on the site. The wildflower survey advertised for the 28th June will not now take place, unless there is an early resolution of this problem.

In the meantime we hope that the village will continue to support us until - one way or another - we are in a position to resume business as usual.

W.I.

At our May meeting members discussed the 2 resolutions to be taken forward to the I.G.M. at Brighton in June.

We also looked back with pleasure to the theatre trips to Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich. Our brilliant darts team, Glenda, Ruth, Brenda, Edna and Elizabeth were congratulated for again showing their prowess in the sport and winning the County Shield.

A display showing our award winning Millennium Project, a survey of a square kilometre of Elmswell, undertaken by a group of members, will be shown at the Annual Parish Meeting at Blackbourne. Many members had provided hot dogs, biscuits and drinks at the very successful Jubilee Street Fair held in Cooks Road on June 3rd.

At our June meeting we enjoyed an hilarious hour long talk from Bob and Doris Ling telling their life story and also the many years they had spent as managers at Snape Maltings. They had met so many well known people, Royalty, Prime Ministers, singers and actors.

On June 25th those with enough energy will walk to Haughley and back and then refreshed with a BBQ at Anna Hawes'

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Around and About cont'd., p20

home.

Looking even further later in July we hope to be entertained at Thurston School by the County Drama Team. Always something going on.

BLACKBOURNE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

The first meeting of the new Committee was held immediately following on from the AGM of the Association which handles the day to day letting, maintenance and management of the village's community facilities at Blackbourne in tandem with the Parish Council. Eric Buckmaster was elected unopposed as Chairman and Lesley Reed resumed her position as Vice Chairman. Jeanne Crook is minutes Secretary, also Lesley Reed has agreed to deal with Blackbourne Hall bookings.

Cllrs Tony Clark and Ron Curry who set up the Association to manage the Blackbourne Centre have now retired from the Committee and our thanks are due to them for all the hard work they put in to get it established and operating in a progressive manner.

They have promised a supportive handover of records, correspondence and advice to assist the new Committee in their task.

It was agreed that Eric Buckmaster should assess the feasibility and Village interest in setting up a Badminton Club at Blackbourne. Notices are to be posted seeking this information. The Blackbourne Hall facility is used at present to less than 50% of it's capacity and the Committee will be looking at ways and means to promote and encourage it's usage further.

**For Hall Bookings- Contact
Mrs Lesley Reed. 01359 241009.**

Queries or problems- Contact
Eric Buckmaster. 245148.

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Monthly Draw for May 2002

Drawn by B King

No 183	C Wade	£50
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No 166	N Howes	£25
No 195	J Cardy	£15
No 78	J Reid	£15

Anyone wishing to join Elmswell
Football Club please telephone B
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Compiled by H Mulley



PARISH COUNCIL BY-ELECTION

The election took place on Thursday 6th June. 480 people voted – 80 of them by post. The result was as clear cut as the recent District Council by-election. The winning candidate, Peter Edmonds, polled 363 votes, 76% of those cast, and Eric Buckmaster's 24% represented 117 votes.

In the fight for the District Council seat in March the turnout was almost double at 37%, but the result was remarkably similar – 78% to Carol Milward, the remaining 22% to Ronald Curry.

There are two obvious conclusions to be drawn from this latest result, given the very special local circumstances at play here.

Firstly regarding a low turnout. It wasn't the lowest in recent comparable contests - in a 3 cornered Parish Council by election in 1996 just 418 voted. Obviously the party political machinery was not grinding away to drag people to the polling station, but, more importantly, there is evidence of considerable voter fatigue. This was our fourth by election in three years – three of them, including this one, due to elected councillors demonstrating their stated 'commitment' by moving out of the area.

Secondly, as admitted by the winning candidate, there was a strong element of protest vote. Those who know the candidates would agree that they are both decent chaps who have demonstrated energy and dedication in various community causes. However, for the second time, Eric Buckmaster failed to shake off the perception that his judgement is clouded by his proximity to the ruling group on the Parish Council. His naïve acceptance of policies and doctrines built on hearsay and a presumption of infallibility is coupled with his persistent refusal to speak out in public against tactics and strategies which, in private, he admits to dislike intensely. This considerably diminishes the contribution he can make, despite prodigious effort.

To those who dismiss this analysis as partisan, of lacking foundation, I refer them to the evening of the count in the Wesley Hall. Mr Buckmaster was on holiday and could not attend. He was represented by Cllrs Curry and Clark, the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parish Council. On such occasions, the senior village representative makes a brief speech congratulating the candidates for a well fought contest and thanking the Returning Officer and staff for their painstaking efforts. On this occasion, convention, manners and proper behaviour were thrust aside as our civic leaders swept from the hall without a word. It was clearly because, for the third successive election – and that's not counting a Parish Poll of 'No Confidence' in their administration – their man had lost. The voice of the people is becoming hoarse from shouting.

Peter Edmonds will make an excellent representative. In the absence of an official handshake, perhaps he will accept our congratulations on behalf of the village.

Peter Dow

[The next scheduled election is on 1st May 2003 for a new Parish Council]

Letter from Eric Buckmaster, Church Road

...Parish Council Election...

Congratulations to Peter Edmonds upon his Election to the Parish Council. I am sure that he will continue his good work in the village interests.

My thanks also to everyone who voted for me, we must try again sometime.

What does sadden me is the very low turnout for the Poll. In this instance some 18.8% only of the Electorate voted. It would be lovely to give Elmswell the reputation of being a Village where the Residents do take the destiny of the village into their own hands. It is going to become even more important in the future.

From Peter Edmonds of Ashfield Road

...just another protest vote?...

I would like to thank everyone who turned out to vote for me on the 6th and also those who took the trouble to arrange a postal vote. I must pay a special tribute to all my helpers and those who would have helped had circumstances permitted or had I asked them. I had more offers of help than I needed and the support and encouragement I received was most heartening. The sheer scale of my win has served to make me even more motivated than I was before.

I am sensible enough to realise that this was largely just another protest vote but the size of my majority suggests that several of you must have actually voted for me! I cannot match Dick Burch's passion for the village - he has 'Elmswell' tattooed on his heart - but I do care deeply for the village and will do my very best to justify your faith in me.

My condolences to my opponent, Eric Buckmaster. I am quite sure that the election will not affect our relationship in the slightest because Eric is a true gentleman and I am certain that he will continue serving the village the way he thinks best. A special mention for Graham Newman who thanked the Returning Officer and his colleagues on behalf of the village. Nice touch, Graham.

I realise that the current polarised state of the village means that I will be faced with some difficult decisions but I will simply continue to do what I think is in the best interest of Elmswell. If you think differently then by all means let me know. Now that you have put me there it is up to you to make good use of me and, if you should want me out again, just say so. It won't take a Parish Poll to make me stand down for a better candidate but I intend to make even those who voted against me glad that I was elected.

Our last by-election made the National Press...

The Guardian's 'Unlimited' web site reported on 22nd March:

Liberal Democrat Carol Milward brought her party from a poor fourth place last time at Elmswell, Mid Suffolk District, to win with more than three quarters of the vote on a 42.2% swing.

'BEST COVER' COMPETITION

Award
Winner

Last month's reported success, when your Newsletter was awarded £150 in a 'best cover' competition, was not the end of our cup run.

The Local Council Review, which is the official journal of the National Association of Local Councils, ran a 'Newsletter of the Year Award' for Parish Council publications. Guessing that our own Parish Council might not have time to submit an entry for their magazine, we felt that the village really ought to be represented and submitted our September 2001 edition showing our own Kangaroo Kid in mid-air on his stunt quad bike at the Amenities Associations Autumn Fayre.

We were delighted to have been adjudged to be top of the 'Commended' list in sixth place overall. This is despite our not enjoying the funding which is available to most village newsletters from their Parish or Town Council. The judges observed that:

The high quality of entries from a whole range of councils represents the dedication that people are putting into their community, and its newsletter.

Many publications demonstrate that they are an immensely effective and efficient way of imparting information from both the local parish council and community groups. Additionally the community spirit that is clearly going into publications is phenomenal... Not only are newsletters informing local people, they are clearly helping local people get involved in their community...

Well done Elmswell, yet again! Particularly our contributors, distributors and advertisers and the Amenities Association Trustees who have stuck to their guns through recent difficult times to ensure no break in our monthly publication over 17 years.



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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Between 1st March and 1st June each year, every English parish must have a parish meeting, consisting of the local government electors registered for the area,. Last year the Parish Council Chairman ruled that there had been enough opportunity for the community to discuss parish affairs in other meetings and did not call an annual meeting. This year a meeting was held at Blackbourne on 27th May.

38 members of the public attended together with our District Councillor, Carol Milward, our County Councillor, Jane Storey, and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllrs Curry and Clark.

The reports given in respect of the Parish, District and County Councils were very much as detailed in our May issue when we covered the proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

Village clubs and organisations had been invited to give reports on their activities over the year. However, notice had been, inexplicably, very short. Many did not respond and 7 had had time only to submit a written report from which the Chairman read extracts. Representatives of the Luncheon Club and the WI, reported on their activities. The Little Elms Pre-school group detailed their hopes for long term expansion, including a permanent building adjacent to the Primary School. Cllr Clark reported on the Blackbourne Management Association (see our report on their AGM in this issue) and both the Amenities Association and the Sports Advisory Committee detailed a year beset by problems consequent upon the process by which the Parish Council had been forcing a painful separation between itself and themselves.

Under Any Other Business the question of excessive local taxation was raised. This led to a general discussion regarding Central Government support grants and waste on the part of local councils. On a parochial level, figures were presented suggesting very expensive inefficiencies in the administration of the Parish Council. Concerns expressed by Cllr Clark last year of a figure of 30% of the council tax raised by the Council going on administration had not, it was suggested, had any effect as the projected figure for the current year is 38% - and this in the face of very little getting done. Cllr Clark promised a review of the budget. The perennial confusion between the activities of the Blackbourne Management Association and the Parish Council was raised to no great effect. Proposed extensions at Blackbourne were also discussed in response to the view from the floor that they were a half-hearted, piecemeal and ill considered set of suggestions which would prove to be disproportionately expensive, wasteful and short sighted. The Parish Council's isolation from other key village groups in this and other matters was highlighted and an appeal made for a change in attitude all round. This was countered by a reminder of the saga of the outside lighting at Blackbourne, recently repaired after months of nasty debate and no action. The instigator made the point that, given the Council's attitude, 'it still wouldn't be done if I hadn't carried on.' Cllr Ronald Curry assured the meeting that recent accusations of bullying and the long standing claims of an aggressive attitude made from various sources against himself, Cllr Clark and Cllr Marriott were merely the result of 'agitation'. He promised that Council would, henceforth, be 'moving forward in a positive manner,' but gave no details. Questions regarding the promised Parish Council web site having been repackaged as a 'Community Web Site' and on certain technical and ethical details of the £2,000+ scheme drew little meaningful response but 'will be addressed in the fullness of time.'

BLACKBOURNE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION AGM

The Blackbourne Management Association (BMA) was set up by the Parish Council because, if the community facilities at Blackbourne are managed by a non-profit making body separate from the Parish Council, they are exempted from the payment of business rates - a saving of some £5,000 per year to the community.

The BMA is made up of 3 Parish Councillors, a representative from each of the bowls, football and cricket clubs, from the WI and from the youth club. Under a hard-fought recent concession, two members of the public can be elected at the AGM. Up to 4 further members may be co-opted.

The AGM was held on 10th June attended by 7 members of the public. Chairman, Cllr Clark, refused to take points of order regarding anomalies in the constitution. He went on to report that the committee had met twice in the past year which had been a successful one. Letting income had been £20 per week up on last year but had been unfortunately outstripped by increased running and management costs so that the balance of the £3000 originally given by the Parish Council as a start up fund is now £2200. No detailed figures were available to the Committee and no figures were available to the public. The figures on which the report was based were not audited. Fees have been recently increased by 5% with a higher proportionate increase for the 3 sports club users. The Cricket Club has raised objection to the way the increases were implemented and are in dispute with the 'Executive'. Cllr Clark thanked the other member of the Executive, Cllr Curry, as they neither of them are to serve on the Committee for the coming year. Possibly

There was considerable dispute as to the veracity of the minutes presented as a record of the last AGM held on 7th December last. The 3 sports club appointees argued that they had not sanctioned the annexation of one of the changing rooms at Blackbourne for letting to the Parish Council as an office. On the casting vote of Cllr Clark the minutes, written by Cllr Mrs Crook, were finally accepted.

The Appointee Members for the coming year were noted as:

Parish Council - Cllrs Keith Harrison & Mrs Jeanne Crook (one place to be notified)
Cricket Club - Mrs Lesley Reed Football Club - Andy Taylor
Bowls Club - Ian Tullett WI - Mrs Pat Catton
Youth Club - David Abbott

Cllr Clark proposed and Cllr Curry seconded the co-option of Mr Eric Buckmaster. This was agreed.

The two members of the public elected were Roy Finch and Peter Dow.

Public comment was invited. It was claimed that the attitude of the Chairman, Cllr Clark and of the Secretary, Cllr Curry, together acting unconstitutionally as an 'Executive', had demonstrated an abrasive and aggressive management style which had caused clashes with many individuals and organisations in the village to the serious detriment of the Blackbourne and to the general dismay of the community. The question which arose was whether this approach was a matter of policy or merely reflected the temperament of the councillors concerned. The Chairman was unwilling to comment and the meeting was closed.

**Amenities Association Grant Aid
towards the new bowls pavilion**

In an effort to ensure openness and to avoid misunderstandings as this matter moves nearer to a County Court hearing in September, the Trustees of the Amenities Association wish the latest position to be clarified by the publication of a letter which has gone to the Parish Council. Again with a view to unambiguous clarity, a copy has also gone to individual Parish Councillors and to Mr Eric Buckmaster who represents the Council on the Amenities Committee of Management.

Dear Mrs Fuller

Grant Aid to Bowls Pavilion

Thank you for your letter of 18 April which was discussed by the Trustees at a recent meeting.

There was very considerable disappointment expressed that the Parish Council is still not minded to accept the terms of the Association's offer of a grant since the Trustees consider that those terms are both reasonable and appropriate.

We acknowledge receipt of figures by way of confirmation from your solicitors which were appreciated. These, together with the advanced stage of construction of the building, have effectively dealt with a substantial number of the Trustees' earlier concerns.

I am able to advise that the Association has now obtained copies of the relevant documentation in relation to the grant from Sport England and since there is nothing in the terms of that grant which give cause for concern, we need not trouble you further in that regard.

It is a matter of regret that the Parish Council still do not see fit to support the suggestion that the Association should be represented on the Blackbourne Management Association to reflect the substantial financial contributions made over the past few years and that now sought in the further sum of £15,000 but, as indicated in our letter of 22 March, the making of such grant from the Association is not dependent upon such representation being either supported by the Parish Council or granted by the Blackbourne Management Association. The Trustees have to accept that the Parish Council does not see fit to help in this regard.

Accordingly, the only matter now standing between us is the issue of the proposed guarantee to the Association of the usage of the building. At our recent meeting, the

Trustees unanimously reaffirmed that this remains a fundamental issue and, as a charitable organisation, it would be a dereliction of their duty not to require this to be properly addressed and satisfactorily resolved. It is simply not the case that the conditions required by Sport England cover the Association's responsibilities in this regard as even a superficial examination of the terms of the grant from Sport England will disclose.

Two alternative wordings have been proposed by the Association, neither of which apparently find favour with the Parish Council. The Trustees do not believe that there is any genuine misunderstanding about the intention behind such a request. All that the Association is seeking is a written assurance that the facility will remain as a community facility, dedicated solely to recreational use for a minimum period of ten years. If this is a common intent, as the Parish Council have previously indicated, perhaps a way forward would be to agree that our respective solicitors be instructed to agree wording acceptable both to the Parish Council and to the Association. However, even this would, of course, require that the Parish Council move from its current intransigent stance of refusal to contemplate such a written guarantee to the Association.

If however, the Association is wrong in its belief and understanding that it is a common intent that the facility remains as a community facility, dedicated solely to recreational use for a minimum period of ten years, then it would be helpful if this could be made clear. The Association sincerely hopes that such is not the case and that it is simply the case that the Parish Council is not prepared to commit itself to the Association (and, hence, to the village at large) in the manner requested.

For the avoidance of doubt, I can confirm that this issue is now the only issue between us in relation to the proposed grant. If suitable wording can be agreed, the Association is prepared not only to make a grant of £15000 but to make the further payment of £1380 in respect of Newsletter advertising on the basis that both the claim and counterclaim will then be dismissed by consent and with no order as to costs.

However, the Trustees have asked me to make it clear that if the Parish Council are not prepared to co-operate with this issue, there can be no grant, in which case, most regrettably, there can be no settlement of the current legal proceedings. If the Parish Council genuinely and sincerely have no intention of allowing the building to be used for non-recreational purposes, surely this matter should be capable of settlement?

Please note that whilst your letter under reply is marked 'Without Prejudice', it is not intended to seek privilege of this letter. Indeed, quite the opposite is intended. This letter should be considered an open letter available for publication which will be produced to the court if, most regrettably, the open offer contained in it, intended to resolve all outstanding issues remains unacceptable to the Parish Council.

It is the Trustees' sincere hope that, even at this late stage, reason will prevail and it will prove possible to resolve this matter once and for all.

Letters

Letter to Ed from Mr & Mrs Attridge of Crown Mill

... a big own goal for Cllr Keith Harrison ...

I cannot believe that a letter from Cllr Keith Harrison informing the residents living in Crown Mill area has more or less been designated as a site for a YOUTH SHELTER.

Everyone knows the children's playcentre has been vandalised, not once, not twice, but many times. Now the last seat (out of 3) inside the play ground has been broken. Trees have been hacked and broken, rubbish is permanently strewn about, yet a suggestion has been put forward that this is the best place to put this shelter.

All this damage is caused by young people, many of them not from Elmswell Village, they would use the shelter and also spread over again to the play area, built for young children who do not now use it unless accompanied by a parent.

People living in Crown Mill vicinity are very angry and that will be shown by the response to the Parish Cllrs by their letters.

It may be World Cup time - but never has a group of people been more united about an article regarding Crown Mill - than who wins the World Cup.

This is going to be a big own goal for Cllr Keith Harrison and so called various groups who decided such a proposal would be accepted.

From Jim & Yvonne King of Crown Mill

... more damage, more rubbish and more abuse ...

We strongly object to the proposal to build a youth shelter on the green at the end of Crown Mill.

The group of teenagers who gather by the children's playground have already proved themselves to be unpleasant and irresponsible, having wrecked the playground and leaving all sorts of litter lying about, from cans and broken bottles, to cigarette ends and used condoms.

It is also unpleasant to walk round there to get to the shops, with foul language being used and intimidating looks. We are perfectly sure that any comment to them on their language and behaviour would lead to verbal abuse and any response could well lead to physical abuse.

To build a shelter would only encourage more teenagers and group mentality would reduce them to the lowest common denominator, which would mean more damage, more rubbish and more abuse, which would mean our access to the Co-op, Post Office and Station would be cut and we would have to go the long way round via Crown Mill, Bennett Avenue and Cooks Road.

To provide a shelter of this nature within close proximity to any housing is a mistake and we therefore register our objection and will fight any proposal to introduce this scheme.

From Mr & Mrs J Petchey of Station Road

... proposed youth shelter ...

Regarding the recent letter from the Parish Council about the proposed youth shelter on Crown Mill, we are in agreement with a shelter but not the position.

We have had enough noise in the past with youngsters being on the area until the early hours. It's not always youngsters on foot, it's the ones in cars and motor bikes racing round the village.

We have all been young once and we have children of our own. They had to be home at a decent time of night.

We think an ideal site would be the Police Station yard, the middle of Thedwastre play area or, perhaps, Cllr Harrison's fish farm.

From Alan Hall of Crown Mill

... Billy Smart is alive and well ...

When the latest copy of the Parish Record was delivered this month what should I find delivered with it but a plain, unmarked envelope. At first I thought that the Parish Council was now delivering junk mail and almost threw it straight into the bin. Curiosity however got the better of me so I opened it to find that it was in fact a letter from Cllr Harrison of the Parish Council on the subject of the Village Youth Shelter. I have attended many of the Parish Council meetings recently and I was present when Cllr Rowlands gave his excellent presentation on that very subject. Something that wasn't mentioned at that presentation or at any Parish Council meeting since, was the definite location of that Youth Shelter.

So, imagine my amazement when I read that the position of the Youth Shelter had already been decided and it would be on Crown Mill. We were just being asked in the letter for our thoughts on where it should be placed on Crown Mill and our views on the type of screening to be erected in order to reduce noise and minimise any inconvenience. The letter went on to say that Crown Mill had evolved as the preferred site after consultation with various groups and the Police Liaison Officer. (Answers on a postcard for anybody who knows who the various groups were). Thoughts and suggestions were invited to the Parish Clerk by the 29th June.

The best line of the letter was saved till last. It advised us that if we didn't respond by the 29th June then it would be assumed that we had accepted the Parish Council's decision to site it on Crown Mill.

As I mentioned beforehand the definite location of the Youth Shelter hasn't been discussed at the Parish Council meetings and a proposal for it certainly hasn't been put before the Council. I can therefore only assume that the letter that was sent was with the knowledge of at least one of the councillors but not the full Council.

We obviously have a very strange state of affairs when we have councillors who go off and do what they want without referring it to the Council for approval.

Billy Smart is alive and well and living in Elmswell!!!!

From Group Scout Leader Dave Hollings

A few days ago I attended an annual parish meeting and due to an error on my part I was unable to give an annual report from the Scouts to the meeting. I promised at that meeting to make a report in the next newsletter and here it is.

The last twelve months have shown a steady progression in our numbers to a current headcount of:- 20 Beavers, 18 Cubs, 9 Scouts, plus 7 adult leaders and helpers.

The biggest success this year has been the reopening of the Scout section, under the leadership of Jim Coole and able assistance of Jonathon Scofield. The boys have enjoyed an exciting period of activities such as pottery, fire lighting, tent pitching and working on their allotment. Plans are in hand for the Scouts to acquire a second hand computer and work is in progress on our very own website.

Cubs have continued under the leadership of Andy Flack and have followed a varied and interesting programme. Last summer boys attended two camps and are looking forward to this year's camp at Thorndon. Over the last few months we have had the help of Luke who is helping us as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award, both he and Joshua have been a great support to Andy and Ava who run the Cub section.

Beavers led by Sue Kiddy have followed a very full programme of handicrafts, celebrated Halloween, Christmas, Easter and entertained their Parents at Christmas with a never to be forgotten rendition of "Dem dry bones". All in all they have followed their motto of fun and friends and made a lot of noise in the process.

We are soon to say goodbye to one of our beaver leaders/helpers Annie Coole who can no longer help us on Fridays (thank you Annie for your work over the last couple of years). I know the boys will miss you.

Annie's departure means we have to close our books to any new beaver members until we can attract some new leaders, so if you feel like helping on a Friday evening between 5.30pm and 7.00pm please contact me on 241323, you'll need earplugs because Beavers are noisy.

The whole Scout movement is undergoing a period of change with new style uniforms and, in April, a completely new award scheme was introduced for boys to follow so it's an exciting time for all those involved.

As in Beavers we still need more adults to help us as uniformed leaders and non-

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uniformed helpers in all our sections as at the moment we have only one uniformed leader in each section which is not a satisfactory situation so if you feel you can help, even if it's only on part time basis, please contact me on the above number.

From Peter Dow of Church Road

...a fresh start...

I was pleased to have been elected recently to the committee of the Blackbourne Management Association.

The image of that body has suffered, since it was formed, from a clear public perception of incompetence, of dealings which have been less than transparent in nature, of an unhealthy close relationship with the parish Council and of a rude, aggressive style of management which has alienated many groups and individuals to the detriment of the running of Blackbourne and to the stifling of the vigorous community spirit which originally inspired and built it.

The first Committee meeting clearly demonstrated that these perceptions have a firm foundation. There has been little 'management' other than by Cllrs Clark and Curry who, claiming powers as 'The Executive,' have run the show to suit themselves. Their house style, as demonstrated in Parish Council meetings, is, indeed, rude, aggressively confrontational and dictatorial. This led to the letter in last month's magazine from Andy Taylor, one of the Committee members, complaining of the treatment meted out by Cllrs Clark and Curry to Lesley Reed, another Committee member at a meeting. The bullying continued into the first meeting of the new Committee until the Councillors left, having effectively resigned their positions by not standing as Council Appointees for a new term. Lesley was persuaded to resume her post as Vice Chairman, a post which she had understandably resigned in the face of the unremitting control-freak tactics used by 'The Executive.'

The meeting agreed to a more open and welcoming attitude towards both hirers and the village at large to try to win back some of those alienated in the past. Regular reports are to be made to the Parish Council and in the Newsletter and the contact number for bookings is to be made public rather than simply posted at the hall. It was decided that monthly meetings are essential (only 2 were held during the whole of last year) if management is to be by committee decision rather than by the dictat of 'The Executive.' The meetings are to be accurately recorded.

Mr Eric Buckmaster is Chairman and has nobly taken on most other responsibilities until the new committee gains confidence that a new way of working is a reality. Mr Buckmaster will, for the most gentlemanly – if misguided - of reasons, sweep the past under the carpet. I feel that the real hurt and damage wrought under the name of the BMA, and well chronicled in these pages by many others over the past 2 years, must be recognised if we are to make a fresh start.

That is why I wrote this letter.

PARISH COUNCIL

The June Ordinary Meeting was held at Blackbourne on Monday 17th attended by 9 councillors and 28 members of the public. The following items of interest were among those discussed;

Web Site Contract: The Chairman, Cllr Ronald Curry, was asked whether Councillors had been made aware that, when they voted to allocate the contract for the provision of a Parish Council Website, they were voting to give £2375 to a company run by Ian Duncan who is a member of the Council's Communications Working Party. It was the Communications Working Party which had made the recommendation to use Mr Duncan's company. He confirmed that Mr Duncan was, and is, a member of the Working Party but that he 'was not privy to' the Website discussions. Pressed as to whether the other members of the Working Party had been made aware of Mr Duncan's position as one of the competitive bidders for the contract, the Chairman would add nothing to his answer and refused to take further questions on the subject.

Youth Shelter at Crown Mill: Cllr Keith Harrison had, in consultation with Cllr Gruff Rowlands, circulated about 12 of the 49 houses on Crown Mill / Crabtree Meadow with a letter purporting to have come from the Council threatening the siting of a 'Youth Shelter' somewhere on Crown Mill and seeking 'thoughts and suggestions'. Around 20 of the public present had come to make their 'thoughts and suggestions' known. They had brought a petition with 60 signatures against the idea. They argued that the whole process was high handed and undemocratic. They objected to the Chairman's arrogance and unfair handling of the meeting. They queried the need for a shelter when enough youths already gather to cause real nuisance and intimidation, often into the early hours of the morning and they questioned the Councillor's right to speak on behalf of the Council without authority. They catalogued the vandalism, particularly to the kiddies play area which goes unrepaired month after month. They castigated the Council for its whole undemocratic approach which was far from being a 'consultation', more of a 'done deal'. They were supported by Cllr Dick Burch who suggested that a worse place for the proposal could not be found and that the whole idea of 'youth shelters' is badly flawed. Cllr Harrison defended his action as having been, he felt, sanctioned by Council although there was considerable confusion between Councillors as to who was supposed to be taking the youth shelter idea further. His defence satisfied no-one. Chairman Curry apologised for the actions of Councillor Harrison in exceeding his brief. A letter of apology is to go to all concerned promising proper consultation prior to a public meeting.

Planning - Fish Farm: Cllr Harrison then left the meeting for the discussion regarding his planning application for a house on land at Wetherden Road where he currently lives in a mobile home and runs a business. The application goes against District Council Policy as the site is in the countryside where development is not normally permitted. The case was made that the business is agricultural and needs

24 hour on-site management for security reasons. The case has failed on two previous occasions in that there has been insufficient proof of a viable business on the site of a nature that required the suggested level of supervision. Again, the central issue crystallised as being the nature and profitability of the enterprise. Management figures formed part of the application, but Chairman Curry and Vice Chairman Clark would not release them to the Councillors making the decision on the grounds of confidentiality. They suggested that their own personal interpretation of viability, based on an increase of turnover since the last application failed, was sufficient to back their case that the business was viable. There was no need, they argued, to consider profit as of any significance in assessing business performance. Profit figures were not forthcoming. Councillors argued that the figures are in the public domain, being freely available for inspection at Mid Suffolk District Council offices where they are lodged as part of the application for anyone to see and, if they wish, to copy. It was conceded that councillors might glance at the figures before they decided, but that they would not be read out. It would, Cllr Curry assured the meeting, be 'unlawful' to do so. The important issue of the precedent which would be set if approval were granted, effectively encouraging building all the way along Wetherden Road to the Parish Boundary at Valley View, was raised by Cllr Mary Feeney but received scant consideration. Cllr Reed argued for a future agenda item to address the way Council deals with planning applications and abstained from voting. A recommendation for approval secured the expected 4:3 majority.

<input type="checkbox"/> SERVIS : HOTPOINT : INDESIT : TRICITY : BELLING : HOOVER : CREDA : PHILLIPS		
<input type="checkbox"/> BENDIX <input type="checkbox"/> JACKSON <input type="checkbox"/> ZANUSSI <input type="checkbox"/> ELECTROLUX	 <h2>DOMESTIC APPLIANCE SERVICES</h2> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin: 10px 0;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">REPAIRS</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">SALES</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>GUARANTEED REPAIRS TO WASHING MACHINES • COOKERS • FRIDGES • MICROWAVES • TUMBLE DRIERS • DISHWASHERS • VACUUM CLEANERS ETC WE COVER IPSWICH • STOWMARKET BURY • STANTON • DISS • EYE • DEBENHAM • WOODBRIDGE AREAS AND HAVE BEEN IN THE TRADE FOR OVER 20 YRS. WE ARE MEMBERS OF THE DOMESTIC APPLIANCE SERVICING ASSOCIATION.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TEL. SHOP (01449) 780398 Visit our showroom at Finbows Furnishers on B1113 at Bacton</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>WE HAVE A SHOWROOM WITH OVER 120 APPLIANCES ON DISPLAY INCLUDING AEG • BOSCH • BENDIX • BELLING • CREDA • DYSON • ELECTROLUX • FRIGIDAIRE • HOOVER • HOTPOINT • PHILIPS • SERVICE • ZANUSSI ETC</p> <p>WE ALSO SELL REFURBISHED APPLIANCES OF A HIGH STANDARD COMPLETE WITH A WRITTEN GUARANTEE YOU MAY ALSO TRADE IN GOOD CLEAN EQUIPMENT • BUILT IN OVENS AND HOBS SUPPLIED • ENQUIRE NOW</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(CLOSED SUNDAY & MONDAY)</p> </div> </div>	<input type="checkbox"/> ELECTROLUX : ZANUSSI : JACKSON : BENDIX
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Other Planning: There was no objection to proposals for an extension to office accommodation at Force Micro, Grove Lane, to 2 further industrial units at Station Road Industrial Estate, to extensions at 36 Eastern Way and at Oak Lodge in Warren Gate or to a new garden room at 3 Wyatt Close. However, Councillors objected to the change of use from residential to a children's day care centre at Street Farm Bungalow on Station Road on the grounds that it might lead to less appropriate non-residential use in the future and in the light of concerns expressed by a neighbour regarding access and parking. The proposals for the development of the site once occupied by Miller's Lorries at Rose Lane and an adjacent plot as housing was supported with the proviso that steps be taken to address the poor state of the unadopted road that serves the sites.

The dwastre Close Play Area: Some limited grass cutting and maintenance has ceased on the kiddies play area as the volunteer who had been carrying out the works wished to express his disgust at Council's cavalier treatment of the Kiln Meadow Wildlife Group which he also supports. This, coupled with the lack of grass cutting on the field, the lack of action to remove the dangerous arisings from the recent ditch clearance and the lack of rubbish control had prompted a letter from a resident. The play equipment, it was argued, should not be moved to Blackbourne as had been recently suggested by Cllr Clark, but the site should be drained, properly maintained and the access made less hazardous, particularly for young children and for baby buggies. No action was determined beyond a 'strong letter' to Mid Suffolk who had promised to clear the spoil from their ditch clearance.

Kiln Meadow Wildlife Area: The development and management of the site adjacent to the Anglian Water facility at Kiln Lane has been an overwhelming success over recent years. The work of a disparate group of volunteers has won plaudits and awards from many sources. However, a recent problem arose when the insurance cover, without which the work cannot continue, was withdrawn by the underwriters for technical reasons. This left the local group, and hundreds of others across the country seeking alternative cover. Cllr Mrs Mary Feeney, who is one of the volunteers, diligently researched the complex specialist insurance market and came up with some options, one of which is notably preferable. She was supported by Cllrs Crook, Harrison and Burch in attempting to arrange cover under the legitimate emergency procedures which are built into the Council's procedures. Unfortunately, the move was blocked by Cllrs Clark and Curry who, as Chairman and Vice Chairman, have The Power to do so. The debate came to Council where it was argued that a proposal from Cllr Reed that cover should be taken out on the basis of Cllr Feeney's researches was illegal. There was not, Chairman Curry argued, sufficient information to ascertain that 'best value' had been sought. A very full and lucid explanation of the situation with comparative figures and reasoned argument towards a preferred new insurer had been circulated by the volunteers to all councillors. Cllr Curry ruled this document to be inadmissible as it was not signed. The Clerk is to go through the process of enquiry again to ensure that the proposed expenditure - some £260 - represents good value for money. Meanwhile the site cannot be managed and the busy maintenance and events programme must stay on hold. Alan Thompson, from the floor and, sadly, well out of order, urged the two councillors who had blocked the

proposal to get down to the site in the hope that they might derive some sense of the marvellous enterprise which they were, for reasons which escaped him, putting at risk. His urgings, though colourfully expressed, fell on deaf ears and he stormed from the meeting.

Blackbourne Management Association: At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, only two members, Cllr Mrs Crook and Cllr Keith Harrison, had been proposed as Appointees to the Blackbourne Management Association. This left one appointee place vacant following the effective resignation of Cllrs Clark and Curry who had previously run the BMA as an 'Executive' since they set it up in January 2001. Cllr Doug Reed, who had not been able to attend the Annual Meeting, was proposed for the vacancy. His connections with the Sports Advisory Committee with the Blackbourne user groups recommended him. However, Chairman Curry secured election to the position on a predictable 5:4 vote. Cllr Burch declared this to be a put-up job and used a technical farming term in asserting that, in his opinion, it stinks. Cllr Mary Feeney agreed and suggested that the Executive had realised their mistake in vacating the committee which now has two elected members of the public as part of its constitution and which could develop views and opinions of its own. Cllr Curry remonstrated with his fellow councillors and declared himself innocent of all ulterior motive, merely imbued with the desire to serve which had only temporarily lapsed. Cllr Peter Edmonds, newly elected, but with eyes wide open already, suggested that the attitudes demonstrated by Chairman Curry throughout the meeting and, in particular, during this unsavoury episode, had been a significant factor in recent election results when Cllr Curry personally, and, more recently, his right hand man Mr Eric Buckmaster, had been so dramatically rejected by the electorate. The Chairman suggested that Councillors try to stick to discussing proper agenda items.

Grass Cutting: The increasingly unsatisfactory performance by Mid Suffolk District Council in cutting various areas of grass around the village was once again aired. The usual 'write a strong letter' approach escalated to the 'very strong letter' stage before Cllr Mary Feeney argued for some real action by way of a meeting between all interested parties at the highest practicable level. The Clerk will make the arrangements.

Length of Meetings: It was argued at the beginning of the meeting that it was so overloaded with Planning items that the important matters towards the end of the agenda might benefit from only cursory treatment. There is, it was pointed out, a Planning Committee - why not use it? The appeals, which did not find favour, were proved to be well founded when the increasingly fractious and ill-tempered proceedings ground to a halt at the statutory witching hour of 10.00pm. Councillors stayed to appoint a street cleaner, the public drifted away, denied their chance of a 'say' at the end of the meeting and, on the whole, either angry, bemused, dissatisfied or a combination of all three flavoured with a hint of disbelief. It was, grudgingly, acknowledged from the Chair that the remaining 13 items would appear on a future agenda. There was a hint that it might not be a month away. Logistically, July 1st seems a good bet. Otherwise, the July Meeting should convene at 7.30 on Monday 15th. The noticeboard at the Co-op carries that statutory notice and the public are statutorily welcome.

Peter Dow

What's On in Elmswell ?

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

June

- 20, 21 & 22 EADS present "Busybody". Methodist Hall, 7.30 - 10.00.
- 28 Kiln Meadow Spring Flower Survey
- 29 Elmswell CC v Old Warden, Friendly, at The Blackbourne, 2.15pm (Sunday)
- 29 2-4pm, Garden Party, Methodist Church Car Park

July

- 2 Elmswell Toddler Group: Trip to Banham Zoo
- 2 10am - 1pm, Wetherden Pre School's Open Day
- 6 2pm. St John's Church Summer Fair at The Cedars, Warren Lane, 2pm
- 7 Elmswell CC v Bushel, League, at The Blackbourne, 2.15pm (Sunday)
- 10 Elmswell CC v Needham Lions, Friendly, at The Blackbourne, 6.15pm (Wednesday)
- 12 7pm. Friends of St John's Church AGM and Supper in the Church

July contd

- 13 6pm - 9pm, Family Disco at the Blackbourne in aid of Wetherden Pre School
- 17 Elmswell CC v Elmswell FC, Friendly, at The Blackbourne, 6.15pm (Wednesday)
- 20 Kiln Meadow 2nd Cut and Ragwort pull
- 21 Gardening Club Open Gardens
- 28 Elmswell CC v Worlington III, League, at The Blackbourne, 2.15pm (Sunday)
- 29 Elmswell Toddler Group: Picnic at Needham Lake via train
- 31 10.00 am - 3.00 pm, Little Elms Fun Factory Open Day at the Blackbourne

August

- Kiln Meadow Bat Watch - Time and date in August to be decided
- 1 Kiln Meadow Pond Dipping approx 6-6.30pm, children must be accompanied by an adult

August contd

- 3 Gardening Club Annual
Outing to Hever Castle
- 4 Elmswell CC v Cavendish
Wanderers, League, at The
Blackbourne, 2.15pm
(Sunday)
- 5 Elmswell Toddler Group:
Magic Mickey, Wesley Hall,
2.00pm
- 14 Elmswell Toddler Group:
Toddlers Teddy Bear Picnic
at the Blackbourne
- 25 Elmswell CC v Earl
Stonham, League, at The
Blackbourne, 2.15pm
(Sunday)

September

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

September contd

- 8 Elmswell CC v
Edwardstone, League, at The
Blackbourne, 1.30pm
(Sunday)
- 14 All day! - Annual Sponsored
Cycle Ride for Suffolk
Historic Churches Trust
- 19 Gardening Club, Speaker
from Otley College on
History of Gardening
- 28 Kiln Meadow Final Cut
- 28 Gift Day at St John's
Church.
- 29 Harvest Festival Services at
St John's Church, 10.30am
and 6.30pm.

October

- Kiln Meadow Fungi Foray
- 17 Mr Sarman on Variegation/
Origin & Types of Plants
- 18 7.30pm. Concert in St
John's Church - Suffolk
Constabulary Male Voice
Choir

November

- Kiln Meadow Tree Planting
- 16 2pm, St John's Church
Autumn Fair - Blackbourne
- 21 Gardening Club AGM

Tell us more - Tel 241841