

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



The ELMSWELL Newsletter

JUNE 2003

..... Your Parish Matters

Dick - 45 years on see page 27



Dick Burch receiving his retirement gift from Jim and Robert Baker

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**This Month's
"COMMENT"**

**is from Barry Hayward -
Chairman, Elmswell
Football Club**

I am writing this month's comment from my position as Chairman of the Elmswell Football Club and would like therefore to concentrate on sport within the village. Please don't stop reading if you are not a 'sporty' type as I believe this indirectly affects all village residents. For example, providing sporting opportunities may equal fewer children paying on the streets with 'nothing to do'.

These notes are not about any lack of facilities as we have improved in this department in the last ten years, but still have work to do, but about a malaise that is engulfing our sporting bodies which is a lack of support and a lack of village pride.

Don't get me wrong, sponsorship for the football club remains at an excellent level but if Elmswell is one of the largest Suffolk villages, why is it that the football and cricket (I believe) clubs struggle to find people to help in administrative roles and indeed, and even worse, struggle to find people who are prepared to represent their village?

Our football committee relies on a few hard working individuals who cannot continue to give of their time year after year whilst senior and junior players seem happy to announce that they are playing for other local village teams whilst residing in Elmswell.

We are a progressive club and want Elmswell teams playing in the highest leagues possible and I believe that this could be achieved if we were able to field teams that included our best 'local grown' talent.

Unfortunately junior football is also suffering with Elmswell possibly fielding just two junior teams across all age groups for this coming season.

Please think about this; Elmswell needs and indeed deserves successful sports teams but, unless parents and children start to display some 'village pride' I, for one, fear for the future. When clubs slip out of existence they are very hard to reform, please don't let that happen in Elmswell.

YOUR COMMENT INVITED... If you have a comment, a view, a statement - something to say about anything of concern to Elmswell - share it with our readers via the 'Comment' column or our 'letters to the Editor' feature c/o Goblins, Station Road Industrial Estate. Please include your name and address and a telephone contact number - our next deadline is 2nd July 2003.

ELMSWELL

OPEN GARDENS

Sunday 20th July 2003

Sponsored by Guus Hamel, Garden Design

15 Gardens open from 1.00 - 6.00 pm

Admission to Gardens by Programme only
obtainable from the Wesley Hall at £2.00

Afternoon Teas, Grand Draw, Plant Stall

Plus Children's Treasure Hunt

Donation to Woolpit Health Centre

The deadline for the next issue is 5.00 p.m. on **Wednesday 2nd July 2003**. 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, as long as 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:

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

¼ page £15 per month ½ page £20 per month Full page £30 per month

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Photographs £10 extra.
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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 & 10.15pm

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 : Mrs Hilda Jackson, Holly Cottage, Long Thurlow, Badwell Ash IP31 3JB. Tel: 01359-259944.

ELMSWELL FOOTBALL CLUB

Club Sponsors: Mirror Group Newspapers

First Aid Sponsors: Euro Food Machinery (Elmswell)

Match Day Sponsors: Harris Cuffaro Nichols (Solicitors, Old Harlow, Essex)

Summer School Sponsors: Wells Stitched Embroidery (Elmswell)

1st Team Sponsors: Mirror Group Newspapers

2nd Team Sponsors: Elmswell Fox

(A) Team Sponsors: Wilsons Transport (Elmswell)

Match Ball Sponsors: Rota-Rod (Bob Barter), Travelstop (Elmswell), Stowmarket Golf Club, Tulipa Landscaping (Elmswell)

1st Team Manager: D Scase. Assistant B Barter.

2nd Team Manager: D Carter. Assistant T Warby.

(A) Team Sponsors: S Beasant. Assistant **Under 14 Sponsors:** Abbots Estate Agents (Manager P Case)

Match Ball Sponsor: W Jarvis (Landscaping Elmswell)

Under 11 Sponsors: D J Fishbar



ELMSWELL GARDENING CLUB



Outing to
Wisley RHS Gardens
Saturday 2nd August
Coach/Entry £16



Phone Janet Sparrow 241968
to book at seat

Around and About cont'd., pg3

(Elmswell) (Manager T Ingram)
Under 10 Sponsors: Village Homes
 (Manager J Tuzinkiewicz)

Over 35 Sponsors: C G Finch & Sons.
**Monthly Draw May, drawn by T
 Ingram**

No 367	Andrew Reid	£50
No 381	B Sturman	£35
No 184	V Butcher	£25
No 378	R Dolby	£15
No 374	T Warby	£15

**Anyone wishing to join the Football
 Club please telephone Barry Hayward
 on (01359) 240951. Training nights
 Wednesday nights, Blackbourne at
 18.15. Compiled by H Mulley (01359)
 240889.**

ELMSWELL BOWLS CLUB Results Stowmarket and District League

Monday 'A' 110	Bickerston 49
Thorndon 90	Monday 'A' 65
Monday 'A' 73	Old Newton 76

Thurston 83	Monday 'B' 52
Mondon 'B' 78	Izworth 61

Bickerston 26	Tuesday Afternoon 'A' 43
Tuesday Afternoon 'A' 30	Haughley 41
Walsham Le Willows 24	Tuesday Afternoon 'A' 34
Tuesday Afternoon 'A' 27	Earl Stonham 49
Tuesday Afternoon 'B' 45	Bramford 35
Needham Market 37	Tuesday Afternoon 'B' 32
Tuesday Afternoon 'B' 30	Woodfield 41
Combs Ford 34	Tuesday Afternoon 'B' 33
Tuesday Afternoon 'B' 25	Blue Circle 48
Combs Ford 34	Tuesday Afternoon 'B' 33

Wednesday 'A' 47	Worham 39
Woodfield 'A' 66	Wednesday 'A' 60
Wednesday 'A' 67	Walsham Le Willows 91
Thornham Magna 68	Wednesday 'A' 53
Wednesday 'A' 78	Thorndon 52

Combs Ford 66	Thursday 'B' 58
Thursday 'B' 89	Woodfield 'B' 53
Blue Circle 57	Thursday 'B' 57
Thursday 'B' 98	Bacton 38
Stowupland 60	Thursday 'B' 77

Suffolk County Bowls Association Marie Curie Cancer Care Trophy

Elmswell 65	Hengrave 76
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Junior Cup

St Botolph 80	Elmswell 59
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Elmswell Bowls Club - Club Competitions

Presidents Cup	winner C Allsop. R/u B Spence
Jubilee Cup	winner B Spence, R/u B Hayward
Horseshoe Trophy	Mrs L Abbott.

LITTLE ELMS PRE-SCHOOL

Little Elms Pre-School is a member of the
 Pre-School Learning Alliance and is a
 non-profit making organisation

Wetherden Under Fives



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

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 Thursdays and Fridays
 9.00am - 12.30pm

A secure, happy place where
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 develop is fun.

We accept nursery grants.

Contact:

Sandra Gidney 07971 827522 or
 Caz Hewett 242733

Around and About cont'd., pg5

(registered charity number 295991). We offer a variety of pre-school activities and aim to create a happy, safe and stimulating environment in which each child can develop his or her skills. The pre-school has close links with Elmswell Community Primary School and feeds into the nursery class at the school. There are currently places available (especially in the afternoons) for children aged 2½ to 4. If you are interested or would like further information, please contact the Play Supervisor on 07762 234336.

Our main item of news concerns the proposed new premises for the pre-school. The current lease expires in March 2004 and Suffolk County Council have indicated that they may be willing to extend this in the short term if plans for a new building are in place. If not, the future of the pre-school in the village could be jeopardised. With this in mind,

the pre-school committee has engaged an architect to draw up an initial design.

Some funding to support this project has already been raised. The committee gratefully received £2000 from Jane Storey's Suffolk County Council locality budget, which is being used to bring the project to the planning stage. We will be exploring all avenues for further funding. Suffolk County Council have offered us a site adjacent to the car park on Cooks Road and negotiations are underway with regards to the lease (there could be difficulties with the raising of funds if a short-term lease is offered).

Finally, the pre-school was sadly the subject of recent vandalism. We would like to express our appreciation for the donation (by a family in the village) of a mini trampoline to replace the damaged item.

Gary Morgan (Vice Chairman)
(01359) 241881

ELMSWELL
St John's Church
SUMMER FETE

Saturday 5 July 2003

2 - 5 pm

The Cedars,
Warren Lane / Cross Street,
Elmswell

Games

Bouncy Castle Live Band
Cake Stall Tombola
Plant Stall, etc.

Ice Cream and Teas

ADMISSION FREE

Come along and join the fun !
Proceeds to Church General Funds

GARDENING CLUB

The planned May meeting had to be changed at the last minute and Mike Scott stepped in to help with a talk about Fuchsias. He is an eloquent speaker on his love of fuchsias and his talk was enlivened with humorous tales. He advises not to worry about buying fuchsias with not many flowers as long as you have good strong plants with many leaves to obtain good cuttings, the flowers will come in abundance in due course. We thank Mike for a good informative and amusing evening, which he produced for us at short notice.

Please remember that the Annual Open Gardens event is on Sunday 20th July and we hope you will enjoy this as much as in previous years.

This month on 19th June we have a talk, "Clematis from Cuttings to Blooms" and



Around and About cont'd., pg7

then looking forward to September 18th the subject will be "Winter Hanging Baskets".

ELMSWELL MILLENNIUM HISTORY GROUP

On Saturday 12 July there is a History Group visit to the Long Shop Museum, Leiston. The Grade II* listed Long Shop was built by Richard Garrett in 1852 to house one of the first production lines in Britain. Steam engines and, later, electric trolley-buses and munitions were manufactured there. Meet at the museum, in the centre of Leiston (opposite Old Post Office Square), in good time for a 10.30 a.m. start. Admission £3.50, senior citizens £3.00. There is a free car park. If you need a lift, do contact a committee member. There is no meeting in August. The History Group meets on the second

Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm in the Church Room (in St John's Church), unless otherwise advertised (£2.50, members £1). After the annual general meeting on September 11th Tony Redman will give an illustrated talk on the development of Suffolk churches, followed by a guided walk round St John's.

Enquiries to Norman Kenyon on 01359 241569

www.elmswell-history.org.uk

ELMSWELL TODDLERS

Our Toddlers have enjoyed several activities during May including a trip to Playworld in Stowmarket, decorating gingerbread men and making Elmer Elephants. The adult night out at Bury Bowl went down a treat with all those mums (and dad!) who attended. Look out for the next adult night out on July 24th when we're all hoping to win big at Breckland Bingo!



Other events coming up are another trip to Playworld (23rd June), Banham Zoo (14th July), Family Barbecue (10th August) and Teddy Bears Picnic (20th August). Why not come and join in the fun - believe me, toddler group is not just for toddlers!

If you have a baby or young child and would welcome the chance of somewhere in the village to go for an hour or so twice a week, come and join us at our regular sessions and see what you think. We meet in the Wesley Hall on Mondays at 1.30 - 3.00pm and Wednesday 10.00 - 11.30am and have lots of toys, crafts, singing and refreshments - all for £1 and your first visit is free. The group is very friendly and new mums in particular find it invaluable to have somewhere to go and



*Are you in
need of a
reliable
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**Contact Amy Jarvis
01359 241958
Mobile 077199 14298**

Around and About cont'd., pg9

chat to other mums whilst the children play safely. For any further information - or to meet someone from the group before you venture in - do contact me on (01359) 242824.

Caroline Long
Chairman

BROADBAND FOR ELMSWELL GROUP

With 28 pre-registrations added in May, this was the Broadband for Elmswell campaign's best month to date.

Broadband pre-registrations rose to 184 by 1st June. After these pass 200, BT should set the threshold level needed to trigger the upgrading of our exchange to broadband. On 28th May, a short presentation on our activities was made at the Elmswell Parish Council meeting. It is hoped to get support from the Parish and District Councillors who were present as well as from Woolpit Parish Council.

Some key points of the presentation were:

1. Local internet users need to pre-register and actively encourage others to do so. It's clear that the progress of the campaign will be determined by how quickly local internet users get around to pre-registering.
2. Pre-registering carries no commitment. If you think you may want broadband in the future, then pre-register now. If and when broadband becomes available, you can then decide whether to subscribe to it and through which Internet Service Provider.
3. Since there is no way to check if BT has received your registration, pre-registering the same telephone number twice does no harm. (BT will only register duplicate entries once.)

Besides its obvious benefits for the future of our local community and businesses,

it looks as though broadband availability may even become a factor in deciding whether to buy a house or site a business in this area. It's even suggested that it may help property prices!

The campaign's website
ELMSWELL.NET

(<http://www.elmswell.net/>) was announced to the world on 15th May in an e-mail sent to 80+ addresses of local activities listed on the SITES page. The website can be consulted for information on pre-registration, the latest news on progress, etc.

A link to ELMSWELL.NET has already been added by the local broadband section of the Bury Free Press website (<http://www.buryfreepress.co.uk/>) and by the ADSLGuide

(<http://www.adslguide.org.uk/>).

And coming up soon, thanks to BT Wholesale, will be delivery of a Broadband

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Around and About cont'd., p2 | 1

for Elmswell pre-registration flyer to homes in the Elmswell/Woolpit area.

ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

That's it then - half a year gone already. I shall be another year older next half, although according to my GP I have the blood pressure of a 17-year-old. I suppose that's understandable as I often get mistaken for Gareth Gates with both my singing and looks.

As you read this we shall have undertaken 2 activities this month. The first on the 8th is a meal after the service for anyone who would like to stay behind and join in. This is so that we can join together in a meal and chat rather than rush away as is so often the case on Sundays. On 9th the Ladies Group and invited parties will have been on a trip to the Pink Nurseries at Mendlesham. This is the last meeting before the ladies recommence in September.

Our services continue throughout June at 10.30am, and our CU Children's club at 6pm on Tuesdays.

As you start to wind up to the children's summer holiday in July the CU Club are having a Bar-B-Que and games evening for both the children and adults on 15th July. This will be at the Blackbourne at 6pm so please make a note in your diary. We had great fun last year - let's hope the weather's the same. There will be games,

food, drink and activities for the whole family so give us a look, we shall build on last years success and learn things such as, hot ash does not mix with dry grass, home-made kites and no wind do not make the best combination and flattering the BMA booking clerk does not give you a discount.

We continue to upgrade our facilities at the Chapel by enlarging our kitchen and putting in a grant for a disabled toilet. The kitchen was found to be too small for our increased usage and so we have extended it across by moving a wall. Unfortunately I feel there is still not enough room for me to offer to wash up just yet. It has however allowed for more room to provide well-earned refreshments on Sundays.

Just a reminder to those in the village who perhaps are housebound that well over 2 years ago we had a tape deck installed to record our services. If you would like to receive a copy of any of our services as a one off or regularly each week please contact Tony on 241541 for the arrangements.

That's it for now - apart from again my monthly column being commended on its literary content joining the likes of Dickens and Shakespeare (or as my wife comments - I wish you would join them). Not much chance of that with the blood pressure of a 17 year old!!!

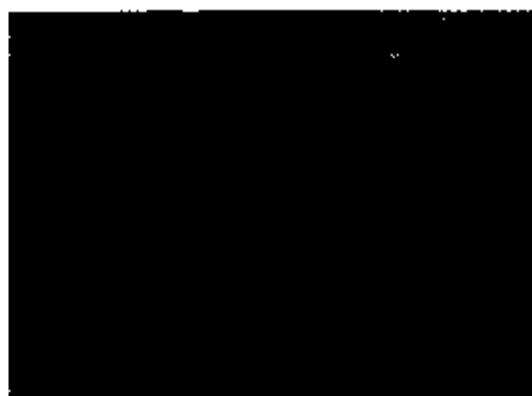
~~ Novetty Cakes! ~~

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Around and About cont'd., pg12

See you next month if not before.

Mark

HOME LIBRARY SERVICE

Do you find it difficult to visit a library because of age, disability, illness or special circumstances? We could deliver a full range of library services, including books and cassettes, to you through the Home Library Service.

A volunteer will visit you regularly in your home with a selection for you to choose from.

The Home Library Service is FREE.

If you would like to know more about the service please contact:

The Home Library Service Manager

Central Library

St Andrews St (N)

Tel: 01284 352545



FUCHSIA FESTIVAL

*(by West Suffolk
Fuchsia Fellowship)*

St John's Church
Elmswell

Saturday 26 July

10am - 6pm
and

Sunday 27 July

12 noon - 5 pm

ADMISSION FREE

Refreshments Available

Proceeds to Church Funds

METHODIST NEWS

This is a special year for Methodists as we celebrate the 300th anniversary of the birth of our founder John Wesley. Events are being organised countrywide, mainly around mid to late June and we in Elmswell look forward to joining many from the District at a special celebration at Ely on Sunday 22nd, displays and pageants take place in the afternoon culminating in a very lively service in the Cathedral at 6.30pm. In fact the 20th June is a very special day for us as in the morning at 10.45pm the Scouts and Cubs will join us for a parade service which will be conducted by our minister Revd. Stephen Yelland.

The following weekend we celebrate our Church Anniversary and on Saturday 28th our Summer Strawberry Fayre will be held at 2pm (please see advert elsewhere in this Magazine) and support us if you possibly can; then the following day the service will be led by our minister from Bury, Revd. Valerie Spencer.

The Exchange Club also celebrates its birthday on 17th June when the AGM will take place at 2.30pm followed by a birthday tea.

The Ladies meeting the following Tuesday will take place in the garden of Ron and Jean Moody's home, and the following Tuesday will be the last in this present session and will be their AGM also.

Our Youth Club will continue to meet on Thursday at 5.30pm until the end of the school term, and will then take a summer break.

On Sunday 6th July we look forward to our annual lunch in the beautiful garden at 'Highbury'.

HAGENETH MORRIS MEN

Your readers might be interested to know that, for the fourth year, Hageneth Morris Men will be dancing in Elmswell

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at the Fox pub and the village sign. The date to note is Wednesday 18th June at 8pm. This year we are joined by local women's North-west clog side The Haughley Hoofers. We will be demonstrating dances that both groups will be performing in at an international folklore festival in Angers, France in July this year. We are always pleased with the welcome that we receive from the people of Elmswell and we look forward to meeting old and new faces this year.

HELPING HAND CLUB

Our 22nd May meeting was a cheese tasting and sampling evening. Our speaker proved to be very interesting on the various cheeses she had for us to sample. This was followed by a very interesting quiz on Know Your Sweets and Chocolates.



We also had our first visit to the club of The Rev. McNamara. It was nice to see you Mike. Hope it was the first of many visits.

On June 19th meeting we shall look forward to having Les, Allan and Peter (ex Tom Smith Band) with us for a musical evening.

Until next month.

Best wishes.

Stan

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Christian Aid. Thank you, Elmswell! The magnificent sum of £1347.70 was collected during Christian Aid Week. Thank you to those who delivered and collected the envelopes and to those who gave so generously. **J Folkard**

St John's Church

The Annual Church Summer Fete will be held on Saturday 5 July at The Cedars, Warren Lane. The Rector will be opening the fete at 2pm, after which the children from Elmswell School will be entertaining us with some country dances. There will be all the usual attractions, admission is free and refreshments and ice cream will be available.

This year we are again fortunate to have a Fuchsia Festival in the Church, staged by West Suffolk Fuchsia Fellowship. Book the date now.....! Saturday and Sunday 26 and 27 July.

The Friends of St John's Church

Just a reminder of the Coffee Morning in the Church Room on Saturday 14 June at 10.15am, following the Friends' AGM. Cakes, plants, bric a brac, books, bring and buy, coffee and biscuits, etc. Admission free.

We shall be holding our Annual Festival Weekend of Art, Music and Flowers on 12, 13 and 14 September. If you are

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Around and About cont'd., p23

interested in exhibiting paintings or arranging flowers please be in touch with Jean Folkard 242099.

SERVICES at ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Saturday 14 June

10am AGM Friends of St John's Church
Followed by a Coffee Morning

Sunday 15 June - Trinity Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 22 June

10.30am Morning Prayer
11.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 29 June

10.30am Holy Communion

Saturday 5 July

2pm Summer Fete at The Cedars

Sunday 6 July

9.30am Family Service with Music Group

10.30am Morning Prayer

11.30am Holy Communion

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

ST JOHN'S CHURCH TOWER FLOODLIGHTING

You are invited to sponsor the floodlighting of St John's to help with the

day-to-day running expenses of our parish church.

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

MAY 2003 SPONSORSHIPS NOT PREVIOUSLY ACKNOWLEDGED

29 Dick Burch. 65 Today.
31 I love you Lynne. Thank you for a wonderful year. Chris.

JUNE 2003 SPONSORSHIPS

1 in loving memory of Amy Pleasance's Birthday
9 in memory of Vic Fuller's Birthday
12-15 in memory of Ken Holland
15 Albert Lufkin. Loving thoughts for Father's Day.
15 "Treasured memories today and always. Wonderful Dad and Grandad, Ernest Farrow"
17 in loving memory of Thomas Robertson
19 in memory of Dorothy May Bloomfield
30 in loving memory of Nan Stagg's 86th Birthday. Lots of love. Edd.

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



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Our Cover Picture Shows

Dick Burch started working at Baker's Farm at 7.30am one morning in October 1957. He remembers that his first job was to unload a 3 ton trailer load of sugar beet by hand.

At the time the farm was run by Jim Baker and comprised 66 acres in Elmswell. Much of the time then was spent with the breeding and fattening of pigs. Dick was often seen walking the boar from the Home Mill yard to the sows in Crown Mill yard across Station Road. Another time-consuming enterprise was the rearing of 4500 day-old chicks up to laying hens in the old fireman's huts on Crown Mill and Crab Tree meadows. The eggs were gathered, washed and collected weekly by Rannochs.

Another character on the farm at that time was Daisy, the house cow who, like the boar, was walked from Crown Mill meadow to her shed near Ivy House. Her milk produced bright yellow butter.

At one stage, two of Dick's brothers, Dobbin and Tony, both worked on the farm with him. Dobbin was well known for his love of animals, especially his spotty dog and the sheep.

Dick worked long hours and would always go into work on a Sunday to feed his pigs. In his 45 years he had very few weeks off work. Even if he was ill he would turn up for work. When Baker's took on contract work at Tostock Farms, Dick would often be out ploughing until 9 o'clock at night. The owner of Tostock Farms was a Mr Hector Mann, who always liked to know that the work was being done and often visited to check up, which prompted Dick to coin the phrase, "Look out, Hector's about".

Dick has certainly seen huge changes during his working life, especially in machinery. His tractor is now warm and comfortable and equipped with a radio, compared to the cold, draughty, rattly tractor on which he spent many hours in his younger days - though his old grey "Fergy" will always have a fond place in Dick's affections.

Over the years, Dick saw the addition to the farm, of Bunkers Hill Farm, Crossways Farm and Kiln Farm, all of which needed much work to improve them and to produce good crops. He saw the demise of the poultry and pigs and, in 1985, the introduction of sheep.

Dick remembers doing everything by hand in the early days, carting and spreading "muck" over an entire field, lifting, topping and loading sugar beet and pulling wild oats from a crop field until it was too dark to see what he was doing.

To mark his retirement after 45½ years with Bakers, Jim and Robert Baker and their families took Dick, together with his wife Pat, his son Ricky and Dick's fellow workers and their wives, for a celebration lunch where they thanked him for his loyal service, wished him a long, healthy and happy retirement and presented him with a smart new rotavator to make the work on his allotment lighter!

Letters

from Barry Smith of St Ives, Cornwall

"I congratulate you all"

I have just received the May edition of the News Letter and read with great delight that the new Village Council has been voted in. I congratulate you all.

I see from the letter things have started to move, especially the Blackbourne. If this is run as an autonomous unit I am sure it will bring in a lot of much needed revenue to the Village.

I hope the Villagers of Elmswell will show their appreciation and back the Councillors in their endeavours to make Elmswell a much safer and homely Village. One they will be proud to live in.

What amazed me was the very low 'turn-out', only 905 Electors voted! Come on Residents of Elmswell. I thought there would have been at least a 90% turn-out after what you have all been through over the past 4 or 5 years?

Was it too painful to walk, drive or cycle to the Polling Station? I hope, at the next Village Elections, the turn-out will reflect the backing of the people of the Village to the Councillors. The centre pages brought back happy memories. I had just joined the Royal Navy in 1955, so just missed with helping to build the Memorial Hall. I do, though, remember spending some happy hours there on Dance nights, when I was home on leave. It's pleasing to read that the whole place will not be forgotten, now that stone will be engraved with a fitting epitaph. Thanks to the Amenities Association

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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting is a chance for the electors to have their say. There are few legal requirements which dictate a format, although a tradition was established in Elmswell that some form of 'community input' framework was usually in place to encourage as broad a range as possible of news, views and opinions to be aired.

This year, for obvious and well-documented reasons, there was not the time to arrange anything other than a very basic opportunity for the people to speak and for those who serve them to listen. Accordingly, Chairman of the Parish Council, David Barker, sat with District Councillor Carol Milward and Community Beat Officer P.C. Kenvy Soon and 43 members of the public at the Blackbourne. One and all were invited to have their say - to this end:-

Wheelie Bins: Carol Milward accepted that the teething problems in relation to the new system were still in process of being resolved, but suggested that the 50% reduction in land filling already achieved pointed to the worthwhile nature of the exercise. She reminded those concerned that a questionnaire is soon to be widely distributed seeking views, opinions and details of problems encountered.

Affordable Housing: Carol Milward confirmed that the Parish Council had, in recent years, failed to make comment on this and other elements of the Local Plan process which Mid Suffolk had been pursuing. David Barker reassured the meeting that the new administration had the experience to address the problem more effectively and pointed out that the recent "Land Bid" process is the very first stage of reconsidering the shape for future development of Elmswell, that public consultation will be wider and thorough and that the Parish Council will play an energetic role in furthering sensible debate.

Criminal Damage: P.C. Kenvy Soon suggested that the recent serious vandalism, particularly at the Blackbourne, on the bowls green and at the Memorial Library, might indicate the need for a cohesive policy on provision for young people in the village. This was received sympathetically from the floor, although more prevention by way of improving Neighbourhood Watch, the possibility of private security guards, increasing the number of Special Constables and the possible private prosecution of young offenders were also put forward as parallel initiatives.

Health Centre: Parish Cllr. David Hawes spoke of the work of the Friends of Woolpit Health Centre in co-ordinating charitable input for the purchase of ancillary medical equipment such as a recently acquired ultra-sound colour monitor at a cost of £30,000. The efforts of Roy and Virginia Finch via the Carl Finch Memorial events were mentioned as providing a significant annual contribution.

Broadband: Geoff Hayward repeated recent Newsletter appeals for 200 interested parties to register their interest with B.T. towards taking further the possibility of a broadband internet connection for 01359 telephone numbers. www.elmswell.net, he promised, tells you more!

Kiln Meadow: Alan Thompson expressed the relief and satisfaction of the Wildlife Volunteers that the Amenities Association, in collaboration with Anglian Water, had saved the project from extinction following the difficulties created by the previous Parish Council administration. With 40 nest boxes fully sponsored, 2 web sites - including a web-cam facility - dedicated to the facility, a recent grant of £500 from Copella, and help from Anglian Water to overcome the physical problems resulting from the enforced lack of management on the site, he suggested that Kiln Meadow might well spearhead a new beginning for Elmswell following recent years of confusion and conflict.

Public Forum: In a friendly and constructive question and answer session, the following points were raised:-

Will the Crown Mill Footbridge now go ahead?
... nothing has changed as the previous Parish Council's attempt to secure planning

permission for a home on the site to effectively stifle the project was never put before the Planning Authority... the Standards Board for England, in agreeing that the Parish Council's procedures in the matter had been flawed on several counts had suggested that the matter be put before Council again... the hope was expressed that this would allow for the re-establishment of the footbridge scheme as a possible element of the future development of the village.

Recent attempts to reduce the nuisance at Blackbourne from "boy racers" in cars and on motorbikes had succeeded by simply blocking the access... how about a barrier?... the Blackbourne Management Association have the matter on their next agenda.

The cleanliness of the village, attention to the recently neglected recycling centre and the cost-effectiveness of a street cleaner are all on the Parish Council's agenda, although the very poor state of the finances inherited from the last administration might be a constraining factor. The cycle path from Elmswell to Woolpit is

definitely to be built, but cannot be expected to be open for some 3-5 years... a staged construction might be considered to allow, for example, a footway down Church Hill to the cemetery.

A pavement down Warren Lane is still a live issue with the County Council, although not progressed over the last 4 years... the forthcoming road safety review of the village is likely to centre upon a lorry management plan which will address the obvious Warren Lane problem... the Local Transport Plan will be published in July or August and will be discussed at a public meeting.

The Parish Council accepts Youth Issues as an immediate and complex area for attention and action... the original concept for Blackbourne anticipated the need for provision for young people but the lack of effective action over several intervening years means that the whole question must be re-addressed... the probable poor state of the Council's reserves - yet to be determined - will rule out any dramatic short-term initiatives.

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What's On in Elmswell ?

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

June

- 14 AGM Friends of St John's Church, followed by Coffee Morning 10.00am in Church Room
- 22 Elmswell CC v Lakenheath 3rd XI. League. 2.15pm at The Blackbourne
- 28 2.00pm, Methodist Church Strawberry Fayre
- 29 Elmswell CC v Milden. League. 2.15pm at The Blackbourne

July

- 5 St John's Church Summer Fete at The Cedars 2.00pm
- 12 History Group, Long Shop Steam Museum, Leiston, 10.30am, visit to the museum
- 12 Family Disco, Blackbourne, ring 244692
- 20 "Celebrate". A mix of music, song and interviews organised by the Elmswell Churches, 3.00 pm at Crown Mill Green - All Welcome
- 26-27 Fuchsia Festival, St John's Church

August

- 3 Elmswell CC v Tendring Park. League. 2.15pm at The Blackbourne
- 17 Elmswell CC v Withersfield. League. 2.15pm at The Blackbourne.

September

- 7 Autumn Fayre
- 11 History Group, St John's Church, 7.30pm, AGM followed by Tony Redman, The development of Suffolk churches, as shown by St John's, Elmswell
- 12-14 Friends' Festival of Art, Music, Flowers, St John's Church
- 14 Friends' Annual Service, 10.30am, St John's Church

October

- 9 History Group, St John's Church, 7.30pm, Colin Cooke, The Bells of St John's
- 16 Village Quiz

November

- 13 History Group, St John's Church, 7.30pm, Ashley Cooper, Three hundred years of countryside history

December

- 11 History Group, St John's Church, 7.30pm

January 2004

- 8 History Group, St John's Church, 7.30pm, Gill Hawkins, The Murder in the Red Barn

February 2004

- 12 History Group, St John's Church, 7.30pm Peter Driver, Suffolk follies and oddities

**Tell us more -
Tel 241841**