

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



The ELMSWELL Newsletter

APRIL 2003

..... Your Parish Matters

...from little acorns... our Tree Nursery successfully established as the first step on the journey towards a community woodland in the village - see page 2



PLUS... ELECTION NEWS - see pages 21-28

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**This Month's
"COMMENT"**

is from our
Editorial Team.

**May 1st
is
Election Day.**

Two places on the District Council, and all 11 on our Parish Council. Prospective candidates for both Councils were invited to make themselves known via your Newsletter. As far as Parish goes, looking at the 13 names represented on pages 21-28 - , we are due for our very own regime change.

This language of war has not been far from the lips of observers and commentators of our village politics over the last few years - even down to the recent ignominious retreat of the elite forces, the brave stand of the few survivors, the collateral damage...it goes on.

But now the rebuilding, and a very different administration on offer to help. All volunteers, are, it would seem, well aware of the post-war problems. Resources are very depleted. Trust is at a premium. There are many previous no-go areas to be opened up, many bridges to be rebuilt. And communication is paramount.

They deserve your support. They can make a real difference over the next 4 years, but they need encouragement. Please make the effort to launch them with a resounding turnout on 1st May. Read what they say: make your judgement; place your 11 crosses.

If you don't bother, please don't bother to complain if things don't go to your liking.

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 14 May 2003.

Our Cover Picture Shows

Grenville Clarke from the Green Light Trust charity which is guiding our local group, Mary Feeney and Clare Norgate, Chair and Secretary of the Elmswell Community Wood initiative, and Mike McNamara who formally opened the Tree Nursery. The event took place on Sunday 30th March on land behind the new Memorial Library at the invitation of the Amenities Association. Whilst various enquiries are made towards finding land for a woodland in the village, 2 tree nurseries are planned. This one to take existing trees and house them ready for replanting on a permanent site, and an area at the Primary School in which to grow trees from seed. More than 60 villagers visited on the day and an impressive array of plants were energetically dug in. Further enquiries to Mary Feeney on 241901.



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The deadline for the next issue is 5.00 p.m. on **Wednesday 14 May 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.

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Around and About ...

COUNTRY & WESTERN

*From Marion & John Petchey, Station Road,
Gerti Wallace, Gislegham*

We would like to thank everyone who supported our Country & Western dance. We raised £381.20 for Woolpit Health Centre.

Thanks to people who gave draw prizes. Thanks to all who helped on the night.

Let's hope we have got country & western back in Elmswell.

We are holding another dance October 11th, 2003 with John C King. This will be ticket only.

NATIONAL MILLS WEEKEND AT DRINKSTONE MILLS, 10 and 11 May 2003, 1-5pm

Drinkstone Mills, the fascinating windmilling site half way between Woolpit and Drinkstone, will be opening for National Mills Weekend on 10 and 11 May, 1-5pm. Research into the history and archaeology of the post mill has revealed that it is almost certainly the oldest standing windmill in the country, much of it dating from the 1580s and it has now been upgraded to Grade 1 listing. The 18th Century smock mill has not had sails since about 1900, but it has all its machinery and the Ruston oil engine is back in running order. With an acre of historic buildings and grounds to explore, cream teas, fascinating displays, a steam engine gently puffing and other historic vehicles, come and enjoy a pleasant, relaxing afternoon out locally. There is no entry charge but we do ask for donations towards restoration of the mills - the post mill alone needs £200,000 to get it back to its former glory and fit to stand for another four hundred years!

We always welcome volunteers to give a helping hand for this event (getting the site ready, circulating publicity, making scones or stewarding on the day) or any future events. If you would like to help with this, or would like to join the growing group of Friends of Drinkstone Mills and Meadow (FODMAM) which organises working days and fun fundraising events, please contact Rosy or Alex Hayward on 01359-240220 and we will give you more details. We are particularly seeking help with a Midsummer progressive lunch round Drinkstone and a possible Dad's Army special event in the Autumn - the post mill featured in one episode of Dad's Army in the 1970s where Jones got stuck in the sails!

SPANISH



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"cerveza, vino y tapas?"



WHY NOT LEARN?

**Phone Andrea Alderton
in Drinkstone
on 01449 736542**

Around and About cont'd., pg3

DAWN CHORUS AT KILN MEADOW

Back by popular demand (Dick Burch), we will be having our very own Dawn Chorus at Kiln Meadow to coincide with International Dawn Chorus Day on Sunday 4th May at 4.30am. Yes, that's right, 4.30 AM!!

Honestly, this is the best time of the day for hearing birdsong because as it starts to get light they go off and start feeding. A bit like humans really. I will attempt to name as many of the birds that we hear as possible and hopefully you may remember some.

Alan Hall

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY, STOWMARKET

Parish Priest:

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

MASSTIMES:

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

Sundays

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

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 GARDENING CLUB



At the March meeting of the Club the chairman, Maurice Emmerson, welcomed 22 members, which included 7 new members, and two visitors. After reporting on the progress of the annual outing to Wisley on Saturday 2nd August and Open Gardens on Sunday 20th July, he introduced the speaker - Peter Beale of Peter Beale's Roses, London Road, Attleborough. This man knows his roses. With the help of slides, Peter kept us enthralled with his knowledge about so many varieties of classic roses, both old and new. I promise you could nearly smell the fragrance, and he knew their names

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Caz Hewett 242733

Around and About cont'd., pg5

too. He showed us how to "mix and match" them with other plants within the garden - up trees, over bushes and everywhere. We were given the latest catalogue, and by what we hear from some members a visit to the Beales garden is a must.

After the talk members compared notes over tea and coffee. Future subjects are "My Gardening Year" on 17th April, Gardeners Question Time on 15th May, and "Clematis from cuttings to blooms" on 19th June.

ELMSWELL MILLENNIUM HISTORY GROUP

The March meeting heard Nick Sign's account of Suffolk-born John Winthrop (1588-1649), founder of Boston, Massachusetts. In 1544 his father had bought Groton Manor, near Sudbury, which had belonged to St Edmund's

Abbey, Bury, until the Dissolution four or five years earlier.

By 1613 Winthrop had become a strict Puritan. The deaths in quick succession of his first two wives illustrate the precariousness of life at that time, which contributed to the overwhelming importance attached to religion in the 17th century. Winthrop despaired of reforming the Church of England from within and resolved to found a purer church in New England. He was appointed Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Company, which meant Governor of the colony once one were established. He assembled like-minded people and workers whose skills would be needed.

Ten years behind the Pilgrim Fathers, Winthrop and about 700 others set sail in 1630, the voyage taking over two months. At first they experienced great privation and danger (someone had already supplied the native Americans with firearms). Winthrop's family, due to join him in 1631, were sent a list of supplies to bring with them, including 'hard Suffolk cheese'. If ammunition ran out, Suffolk cheese supposedly made first-rate cannonballs. Boston became the centre of the colony, to which over fifteen thousand more emigrated in the 1630s. Meeting-houses filled with Puritans in their steeple-hats and cloaks in 'sad' colours. Winthrop survived a third wife but not the fourth. His son John (born at Groton) and a grandson, also John (born in Ipswich, Massachusetts), in turn became Governor of Connecticut.

The History Group meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm in the Church Room (inside St John's Church), members £1, non-members £2.50. On May 8th Stuart Bowell is talking about Suffolk breweries, past and present.

ELMSWELL BOWLS CLUB

The Bowls Club would like to thank Wyevale Garden Centre of Bury St Edmunds for their sponsorship in the supply of shrubs to front the new bowls pavilion.



Around and About cont'd., pg7

Enquiries to Norman Kenyon on 01359 241569

www.elmswell-history.org.uk

HISTORY GROUP - STOP PRESS

A reminder that the marvellous restoration work at **Drinkstone Mills** is open to the public, with cream cakes & various other attractions, on **10th & 11th May** between 1.00 and 5.00. Our recent presentation from **Rosy Hayward** who lives there with her family suggests a fascinating afternoon out.

SERVICES etc., at ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Friday 18 April Good Friday

10am United Service
Elmswell Fellowship of Churches at the Baptist Church, Ashfield Road

Sunday 20 April Easter Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Family Communion
6.30pm Evening Service

Sunday 27 April

10.30am Morning Prayer
11.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 4 May

9.30am Family Service with Music Group

10.30am Morning Prayer

11.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 11 May

8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Christian Aid Sunday

Sunday 18 May

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

St John's Church

The Mothering Sunday service was well

attended and the congregation included members of the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, some of whom were also in the Music Group which led two of the songs. About 100 posies had been prepared and were given to the mums, grandmas and aunties who had come along to celebrate their special day. Annual Parochial Church Meetings will be held in the Church Room from 7.30pm on Tuesday 29 April. The first meeting, to elect Churchwardens, is open to all parishioners.

Christian Aid Week May 11-18

Once again a house to house collection will be made, for the work of Christian Aid. The organisation works in many different countries around the world, for instance Cambodia, Afghanistan, Palestine and Sri Lanka.



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Around and About cont'd., p29

An example of the help which is given by Christian Aid is the story of Yogamma Silva who lives in Sri Lanka - a civil war turned her into a refugee selling firewood, but a loan of £6 from a Rural People's Organisation allowed her to start a business processing rice. She is now the president of the Rural People's Organisation, which is funded and supported by Christian Aid. Could you spare an hour or two to help with the collection in Elmswell? We raised over £1,000 last year and with your help we can do it again!! If you are willing to help, please contact Jean Folkard, Christian Aid Organiser for Elmswell (01359 242099).

ST JOHN'S CHURCH TOWER FLOODLIGHTING

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

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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".

MARCH 2003 SPONSORSHIP NOT PREVIOUSLY ACKNOWLEDGED

13 in memory of Ann Thorby (on what would have been her Wedding Anniversary)

APRIL 2003 SPONSORSHIPS

- 1 in loving memory of Rose Emma Manning on her Birthday.
 - 2 Mr Douglas Kemp. In memory of a dear Husband and a wonderful Dad. Happy Birthday.
 - 9 in memory of Grace Rush.
 - 14 in memory of Ray Borrett's Birthday.
 - 14 in memory of Carl Finch.
 - 21 in loving memory of Frances Howe. 50 Years. Also remembering her Birthday, 14 April.
 - 22 in memory of Teasel.
 - 22 St George's Day. Carl Finch.
 - 27 in loving memory of Edward Smith's Birthday.
 - 30 in memory of David Lakey.
- All bookings and payments please to:-
Trevor Sadler, Abbots Warren, Church Road, Elmswell (Tel: 240908)

ELMSWELL BAPTIST

One of the busiest times of the year for the chapel - so here goes. On April 18th join us at 10am for our Good Friday service. It's a combined service with all 3 churches taking part. Then on Easter Sunday at 10.30am we have an informal service with the members of the CU club taking part if they can be separated from their 4 Easter eggs that they had for breakfast. Stephen will take the services so expect the

Around and About conf'd., pg 1

unexpected.

On Saturday 3rd May at 6pm we shall be organising a games evening for the village. It will be held in the BLACKBOURNE hall and everyone is invited. It will consist of various games, none too energetic; I am starting to get towards 40 (I know it's hard to believe). This will include a beetle drive amongst others which I know everyone enjoys - if you'd like to see a grown man (well Doug anyway) cry into the peanuts come and provide the competition. It will be a fun night, hopefully getting to know others from the village and beyond. It's also open for all ages so bring your whole family. We shall all be on a high that night anyway as it will be the last game of the footy season and Ipswich will have just reached the play-offs. (If they do I'll run round the football pitch tied to H Mulley from the football club!!!). Drinks will be provided on the night, however it's a bring and share buffet, so please bring some food for yourselves to eat, but the idea is you then put it on the table and eat someone else's. It sounds a bit like when I tried to swap my broken ker-plunk game for a chopper bike on swap shop all those years ago. If you require any more info then contact Tony on 241541, otherwise just come and join the fun. (Doug - I wonder if you could give me the phone numbers of the glamorous dolly

birds that kept the scores for your last village quiz, I would like to employ them myself).

On 12th May the Ladies Friendship Group meet up with Marion Pratt for a very interesting evening about Marion's visits to China with 'Open Doors'. The evening starts at 7.45pm.

Our CU Club re-starts after the Easter holidays for our summer term on April 29th at 6pm. It really is a fun evening for children aged 5 - 12ish. Every week is different, every night has surprises, and to keep it fresh it's led by different people each week. Ask anyone that goes. In the summer term we hope to go outside at the Blackbourne and enjoy the light evenings and hopefully end the term with a bar-b-que. Give us a look in April and see what we do - and bring your mates. Also, in this day and age it is safe, with everyone involved adhering to the child protection requirements.

Oh well, I'll update you next month on our activities as this item is starting to take up nearly as many pages as the cricket clubs.

See you next month if not before.

Mark

METHODIST NEWS

It seems only a few weeks ago that we were preparing for Christmas, now we are well

~~ Novelty Cakes! ~~

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Around and About cont'd., p212

into Lent and our preparations for the death and resurrection of our Lord. Our services reflect this and we look forward to the United service at the Baptist Church on Good Friday, and then our services of celebration on Easter Day.

The service at our church will be led by Revd. Jeffrey Bloomfield with Communion at 10.45am.

Preachers in the following weeks: April 27th Mrs Maureen Newcombe. May 4th Mr Gordon Steed. May 11th Mrs Stella Davis. May 18th Mr Stephen Roe.

On Monday 28th April at 7pm the annual ladies rally will be held, when all are welcome. The speaker will be Revd. Marion Bright of Sudbury, musical items will be brought to us by Mrs Pam Harland, and delicious refreshments will follow.

On May 20th the Exchange Club are off to visit Sandringham, hoping the sun will shine that day!

The ladies continue to enjoy their meetings each Tuesday at 2.45pm and on 6th May Mrs Thelma Rogers will speak to them and 13th May Mrs Jane Bean.

Coffee will be ready for all takers between 10 and 11.15am on 17th April, May 1st and 15th.

We wish all readers a blessed and joyful Easter.

LITTLE ELMS FUN FACTORY

Notice of Emergency General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that an Emergency

CLASSIFIED ADS

Worried about kennels? Let us look after your pet(s) while you are away. They will be cared for in our own home and thoroughly spoilt. References available. 01359 240622.

General Meeting of Little Elms Fun Factory will be held on **Thursday, 1st May 2003** at 8pm at

Little Elms Pre School, Oxer Close, Elmswell, for the purpose of electing a new Chairperson. The Fun Factory **cannot** continue unless a new Chairperson is found.

Should you wish to consider this position (or as a Committee Member) please contact Debbie (01359-244276) or Joy (01359-242259) for further information.

TODDLERS

This months entry will, I'm afraid, be in the style of the Oscars - a speech full of thank you's! We held our latest Nearly New Sale on Saturday 29th March and it was a great success, so I would like to thank all those people who helped by donating items, delivering leaflets, putting up posters, and helping set up and clear away on the day. Thank you to Evelyn for braving the cold to check everyone in and for Anna, Jeanette and Linda, Trudi and Caz for working hard for so long on the day. Special thanks go to Sue Rochford for all her photocopying and helping all day, for Alex collecting the rails and being there the whole time - yet again arriving before me (even waking up at 5am I still managed to be a bit late) and for Peter who goes above and beyond the call of duty to help us out so much.

Everyone's help was truly appreciated and we raised nearly £300 for toddlers and over £800 for all the sellers so I hope everyone involved enjoyed themselves as much as I did. All the money we raise goes on providing craft materials for the



Around and About cont'd., p215

children, buying new toys and subsidising trips and of course the fantastic Christmas Party.

The new committee has started to plan the year's coming events - with several trips and plenty of sociable evenings for the adults, so look out for future listings in the What's On section. Although we are called Elmswell Toddlers, children of all ages are welcome, from babies to pre-schoolers, we have even had members in the past come along whilst pregnant for a chance to get to chat without interruption! If you would like to be a part of such an exciting toddler group then pop along to the Wesley Hall on a Monday 1.30 to 3pm or a Wednesday 10 - 11.30am. We provide refreshments, craft, singing, good conversation and a safe and friendly environment for your little ones to play in and all for a £1 - and your first visit is free!

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ELMSWELL W.I.

Who would have thought that by having time to "stand and stare" there were so many interesting artefacts around us, from ancient plastered walls to carved pews in churches, all brought alive by Peter Driver's amusing and instructive talk to Elmswell W.I. at their April meeting.

We were also reminded of the many events taking part during the next few weeks, fashion shows, agenda conference, birthday party celebrations and again the need for members to provide excellent refreshments for a group of visitors from Norfolk who were so impressed with the food provided two years ago, we were asked to repeat the exercise.

Janet Baker again stepped in to chair one meeting and Louis Gooding had a successful evening winning both the competition with her painting of Suffolk and also winning a raffle prize.

As usual something for everyone.

HELPING HAND CLUB

Our first meeting (our AGM) of 2003 was held at The Blackbourne on March 27th. We welcomed a large gathering of our existing members and also several new ones, which was very nice to see. We also welcomed some new members to our committee which is also very pleasing.

We have a varied and interesting programme lined up for the year which we hope members will find entertaining.

The first meeting after the newsletter appears will be April 24th, thereafter every other Thursday at 7pm.

Guests and new members always very welcome to join us. Until next month. Best



Around and About cont'd., p817

wishes. Stan

YOGA

The newly formed yoga class held at The Blackbourne got off to a very good start last term, but we would like more members to join us. Yoga practice is suitable for all levels of fitness so if you feel that you would like to improve your suppleness, mobility and stamina do come along, no previous experience is needed. The sessions are led by an experienced and well qualified instructor and typically comprise, gentle warm up stretches, work on basic traditional postures (no, not trying to get your feet behind your ears), finishing with deep breathing exercises and fifteen minutes complete relaxation. An excellent way to keep fit without the risk of sprains or injuries.

The next term begins on Wednesday May 7th and runs for ten weeks. Sessions are

from 10.00am to 11.30am. Please bring a non-slip mat and a blanket for the relaxation period.

Ring Thurston Learning Centre on 01359 232204 for more information.

ELMSWELL CRICKET CLUB

The new season draws near. The first match is at the Blackbourne on Sunday 27 April which is a friendly before the league season gets underway. This year we shall be playing in Division 4 on the McNeil Suffolk Cricket League.

The club welcomes new members and if you are interested in playing village cricket please contact David Peachey on 242622.

Century Club Draw - March

£15	87	Alex Farmer
£10	54	Nigel Greathead
£5	77	L Fairley



ELMSWELL FOOTBALL CLUB

Club Sponsors: Mirror Group Newspapers

First Aid Sponsors: Euro Food Machinery (Elmswell)

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continued on Page 31...

Election... Election... Election... Election... Election... Election...

On Thursday, 1st May elections will be held to the Parish Council and to Mid Suffolk District Council. Electors may vote for 2 members of the District Council and 11 members of the Parish Council.



The poll will be held in the Wesley Hall (opposite the chip shop in School Road) between 8.00 am and 9.00 pm. All electors will receive a polling card through the post - it saves time if you take it along, but you don't have to. You have the chance to put 11 X's down for the Parish Council, for which there are 13 candidates. You have the chance to put 2 X's down for Mid Suffolk for which there are 3 candidates.

We invited all candidates, through the March Newsletter, to tell you about themselves. Their contributions appear in alphabetical order and have not been edited in any way.

PARISH COUNCIL - 11 Vacancies

David Barker

I have lived in Elmswell for 19 years and served on Elmswell Parish Council for 8 years from 1991, four of those years as Vice Chairman. As part of my work as a local Solicitor I have acted for Parish Councils and in many Local Government matters.

I have maintained my community involvement as a long standing member of the Amenities Association, staying in touch with the local issues which have been to the fore of late, and I feel that now might be the time to offer my services as a Parish Councillor once again.

As well as wider concerns such as the lack of provision for young people in our village, the desperate need for a traffic management plan and the sad lack of local input into Planning policies affecting our village, I am keen to encourage fast and well thought out action to tidy the place up. Some swift attention to our immediate local environment might go a long way to lifting our community spirit so that we can tackle the bigger problems.

I am pleased, over many years, to have been involved in the establishment of Blackbourne, the building of the Hall there and in the provision of our new Memorial Library. I would like to offer my experience to help Elmswell move on and, therefore, I seek your vote on 1st May.

Election... Election... Election... Election... Election... Election...

Election... Election... Election... Election... Election... Election...

Dick Burch (Officially Michael Richard Burch)

I am looking to get elected for the fourth time. I have served on the Parish Council since 1991 because I think Elmswell matters. I was born and brought up here and have family throughout the village. I have worked here all my life. I retire in May and I will have more time for the community. I would like to spend that time as I have done for many years, helping in real practical ways. On working parties - clearing footpaths, or litter, on grass cutting or planting trees. I will certainly have more time to play bowls, run the line for the Elmswell Club or help with the Cricket Club.

I am really hopeful of more progress over the next four years than we have seen lately. There are many things which have been neglected. Too much planning is going without local comment - the community is getting lots of new housing and nothing by way of facilities to match. We need to look at managing the traffic, particularly at Shop Corner. The kids have had a particularly rough deal. We should be looking at giving them an alternative to making mischief and causing damage about the place. And there's lots of less obvious things. We need a Footpath Officer again, a Welcome Pack for newcomers, Village Walkabouts so that Councillors get out of their cars and have a close look at things - and regular bits in the Newsletter written from the Council and keeping everyone informed and involved.,

I could go on - in fact I would like the chance to do so and your vote would help.

Jeanne Crook - Independent

I have decided to stand for a further term of office as an Elmswell Parish Councillor.

During the last four years there has been much dissent and animosity in the village caused by a small minority who have disagreed with the way the affairs of the village have been run. Indeed certain individuals stated directly to myself that they would do everything in their power to disrupt the operation of the last parish council. Now, perhaps, some of those people might like to stand for election.

I have always tried to tread a reasonable and middle line and would like to think I can continue to do so. Some things have been achieved during the past four years, but much more needs to be done.

I am concerned for the future of the Blackbourne Centre and will continue to do all I can to see the building is properly maintained and available for use by everyone.

The volume of traffic in Elmswell is an ongoing problem and I have been involved in discussions to seek a solution to this. Already there are plans to survey the traffic flow to try and make the roads safer.

Concern has been raised about the numbers of Elmswell Primary School. I have been closely involved with the school for the past four years. It is a well-run school having achieved various awards for excellence. I am sure that with careful management the school will continue to provide adequate places for children in the future. I will continue to do my best to achieve this if re-elected.

I was heartened last year when so many Elmswell people helped to organise the Street Fair to celebrate The Queens' Golden Jubilee.

Surely this proves that villagers are willing to work together for the good of Elmswell.

Election... Election... Election... Election... Election... Election...

Election... Election... Election... Election... Election... Election...

Peter Edmonds

Looking at the list of candidates for the forthcoming Parish Council election, it would seem that there are good times ahead for our 'troubled' community. It looks as if you could perm any 11 from the 13 and end up with a really good council so the future looks very bright indeed.

Obviously, the new ones are a bit disadvantaged since they have no track record for voters to go on so you will not know what you are getting until it's too late and you might be disappointed. Can happen, has happened! But not this time, I think.

From a personal point of view, I am quite happy to be judged on my prior performance. I voted against the low precept and now we are cash-strapped, and I voted against the Blackbourne extension and that project has further cost implications which we obviously cannot really afford. These are just two examples which readily spring to mind. I am still relatively inexperienced, having not yet served a year, but being catapulted into the post of care-taker chairman has taught me a lot and very quickly! On balance, I have enjoyed my 15 minutes of fame and the brief taste of power and I can see how it could turn someone's head. This head, however, is not for turning!

I would like to be given the chance to carry on as a councillor and I sincerely hope that my staunch allies find favour with you too. There are several fresh young minds to choose but also some 'golden oldies' which are well worth looking at! Please make the effort to vote and give it a little thought and I am sure that we will end up with a council which will make Elmswell well-known for all the *right* reasons.

Mary Feeney

Once bitten, twice shy? Perhaps Parish Councillors are immune to that, because here I am asking once again for your vote. You may wonder why, after the rollercoaster of the last two years! The first reason is our Chairman's challenge last month - that people must step forward to make sure Elmswell has the fair and decent representation it deserves. I have really enjoyed the close contact with the people of the village that being a councillor brings and, if re-elected, I promise I will continue to work hard and enthusiastically on your behalf.

The second reason is unfinished business. I like to see a job well done, and there is still so much to do around the village as well as some significant new initiatives - like the Road Safety Group and Community Action Plan - which have only just started.

If re-elected, these will be my top priorities:

- provide much-needed youth facilities and services - robust, flexible and in the right place.
- improve road safety - to work together to produce a well-researched traffic management plan to reduce congestion, encourage walking and cycling and make our roads safer.
- protect our environment - to enhance our open spaces and footpaths, and to support our hardworking wildlife groups so that everyone can enjoy the countryside. And - just as important - to make sure our village is a well-kept and pleasant place to live.
- ensure that Elmswell gets its fair share - and does not miss out on benefit from new developments or grant aid.
- give Elmswell a voice - we must listen to your concerns and make sure your views are heard by the relevant authorities.

There's so much to do - let's all work together to make Elmswell the top place we all know it really is!

Election... Election... Election... Election... Election... Election...

Election... Election... Election... Election... Election... Election...

Roy Finch

I am one of the silent majority. As long as things are going along OK I leave it be. But I have decided that now is the time to jump in and help sort things out.

I have lived in the village nearly all my life. I do a lot of my work in the village, my children live in the village. I have raised many many thousands of pounds for village organisations and charitable causes over the years. I think that I come into contact with a wide range of people from all walks of village life and I am encouraged by their support for my standing for Council.

They agree with me, it's time to get things going again. They agree that the village looks down at heel. Not enough litter bins, old and damaged litter bins. Same with the doggie bins. And the salt bins. Even the village sign.

They also agree that we have to have lorries, but that we could deal with them so that they cause less of a problem. It is generally agreed that houses seem to be going up all over the village without any thought being given to the services they need - the school, Woolpit Health Centre, the railway crossing. No-one argues with the obvious lack of things for the kids to do - and the play areas are a disgrace.

I have been to a lot of Parish Council meetings. I know it's not an easy job, but I think that a lot of different types of people can play a part. I think, by looking at and working on the sort of issues I have listed above, that I can help and I would appreciate your vote so that I can give it a go.

Alan Hall

I am married and have two girls who attend the local schools. I have lived in Elmswell for 7 years but I have lived in a village for almost all of my life. Because of this I can see how much the village of Elmswell has to offer. It just needs time and effort that is channelled in the right direction. I am willing to put in that time and effort.

We moved into East Anglia in 1985 and I worked for the Civil Service and then the NHS at West Suffolk Hospital as a Building Services Engineer. Within this role I gained considerable experience in controlling and using Public money in the most cost effective way to ensure that the services were maintained to the highest possible standard. This would obviously stand me in good stead if I were fortunate to be elected.

I have been attending Parish Council Meetings regularly for the past 2 years. This has enabled me to gain a good understanding of the business and procedures that the Council and Councillors need to carry out.

In my spare time I am a member of the happy band known as the Kiln Meadow Wildlife Group and spend many hours cutting, raking, carrying etc at Kiln Meadow.

If I am elected I will do my best to represent the people of Elmswell in a manner which they deserve. I realise that it won't be easy, but I do like a challenge. A bit like Marriage, but less pain!

Whatever happens, I'll continue trying to get Kiln Meadow back to what it was 2 years ago.

DON'T FORGET DAWN CHORUS, KILN MEADOW, 4:30AM SUNDAY 4th MAY.

Election... Election... Election... Election... Election... Election...

Election... Election... Election... Election... Election... Election...

Walter Wakelin (David) Hawes

I have decided to stand for election to the Parish Council after a gap of ten years. If elected, I will try to help the Council to improve its relations with the majority of parishioners who are fed up to their back teeth with all the bad publicity, with the apparent chaos in the conduct of its affairs and the constant, and at times childish and vindictive, sniping from the sidelines.

This very unsatisfactory state of confrontation has developed under the current administration and its predecessor. It is now time to get away from the obstinacy and personal egoism that have blighted parish affairs for far too long. The Council needs to revert to an open and transparent method to regain the confidence of parishioners to enable it to get on with the many things that need to be done. Too many opportunities to improve facilities and benefit the community have been missed to everyone's disadvantage.

A new Council, working with the community, should seek to help the many organisations in the village to achieve their aims and help them with their projects, this should help raise the quality of life in the village for all age groups and interests, for the ever growing population of the village.

I do not represent any pressure group and have no political affiliations and would try to act in the best interests of the village at large.

Jane Heselden of Wetherden Road

Proposed by Dick Burch, Seconded by David Royal

I would like to thank my proposers for giving me the chance to stand for Elmswell Parish Council.

I am married, work in fibre optic Research & Development and have lived in Elmswell for 3 years. I have attended several Parish council meetings where I understand I was noted for making my points clearly and decisively.

I'm not the oldest or wisest person in Elmswell, but I feel I have something to contribute to our village.

I'm especially aware of certain things deserving change or improvement. First, the lorries which seem to need to use our roads without check or guidance. Secondly, I seem to be unable to walk through the village without stepping on dog dirt - maybe there should be more doggie bins, or, for that matter, more bins for rubbish in general, since there seems to be a lot of that around as well? Then the 'youth'. One word covering two different groups, 5-12 and 12-18, the teenagers. I don't feel that the needs of either has been well represented. Why are the kiddies play areas derelict? Where are the dances, disco's, trips and general 'things to do'? They must get very bored, and we see the consequences! I have experience of a local community Association which ensured just that - something to do by way of an activity every week for young people - an alternative to just hanging around on at the Library, on Crown Mill, etc.

There is opportunity for Elmswell to move forward on many fronts. I am keen to help and to do so in a more friendly and co-operative environment than has sometimes been the case of late. I would appreciate your vote on 1st May to help me do it.

Election... Election... Election... Election... Election... Election...

Election... Election... Election... Election... Election... Election...

Norman Kenyon

I was born during the war, schooled in Essex, took a science/electronics degree and a PhD at Cambridge, and after four years in the USA spent 24 years with BT Labs at Martlesham. There I managed the 90-strong Visual Telecommunications Division, and I also took a particular lead in international negotiations for digital stanadards. I moved to Elmswell with my wife Rita in 1988, after our two daughters had flown the nest.

I have no experience of local government to offer, but then maybe that's a good thing! I have spent much of my life organising people and projects, and generally try to be critical in a constructive way (getting Americans, Japanese and Europeans to agree took a lot of inventive tact!). On the Parish Council I would not be a silent thumb-twiddler, nor anybody else's yes-man, but neither would I be a prejudiced drum-banger. We need a non-partisan Council whose members work in harmony.

We must strenuously resist further expansion of our village, which risks becoming a small town with inadequate infrastructure; rather, we should do our best to improve the quality of life here. Our streets should not be a rat-run for Juggernauts, nor a race-track for the mentally challenged, nor a rubbish dump. I am gald that Kiln Meadow is back in business, and would want the Council to support strongly all local initiatives for a better environment and traditional community values. I was dismayed that a faction of the present Council wasted over £2000 of our money on an inappropriate website, after I had offered to do a good one *gratis*, and will do my utmost to ensure that in future the Council site be a reliable source of information on the problems and development of the village.

Doug Reed

When elected to the present Council (January 2001 by-election), I realised the role would not be easy, but I hadn't anticipated just how difficult it would become. So, given the problems and frustrations, it may seem somewhat curious to be asking for your vote again. However, despite the problems, I've actually enjoyed the experience while, I believe, maintaining a firm, independent line. I'd now like the chance both to finish the jobs I've started and, with positive colleagues, take Elmswell to the point where we can all be proud of the village.

I've been able to work on a range of issues which I feel are important, including the 'Community Action Plan', road safety, youth facilities, housing and planning, play area safety, and parish transport grants. I remain, though, concerned about matters which have *not* progressed. Communication between the Council and the people of Elmswell is still poor. Consultation is non-existent, and reports of Council meetings and businesses are neither comprehensive nor objective. I'm especially worried about the Council's finances, i.e. *your* money. The precept was set at a level which is insufficient for a village this size. Combined with outstanding commitments, I have serious reservations about the Council's resources and would like to see a publicly-accountable Finance Committee in place through which residents can be properly and regularly informed about the Council's financial affairs.

I remain committed to pursuing what is best for the village and, if elected, will vote for what I believe is right. I will *not* follow any particular line or 'side'. Councillors need to work *for* Elmswell, promote development and growth, and respect people's views.

If you feel able to support me then I will work with commitment and enthusiasm, to pursue matters *you* believe to be important for Elmswell.

Election... Election... Election... Election... Election... Election...

Election... Election... Election... Election... Election... Election...

Michael Schofield

The election on May 1st gives all of us in Elmswell the chance to vote for councillors who will act for the good of everyone in the village but who, above all, will listen to what the people of Elmswell have to say. We have seen, for the past four years, what happens when a group pursues their own narrow interests and we therefore need councillors, both who will represent the entire village and who will work to heal previous divisions. We also need councillors who can provide leadership and who can ensure high standards of effectiveness and probity.

This is why I am asking you to vote for me on May 1st.

I have lived in Elmswell since 1986 with my family and have worked in public service all my life, firstly as a manager in the NHS and latterly as a teacher of Business and Management. I have been actively involved in village life over the years, having been a parent governor and PTA chairman at the school, fixture secretary of the Cricket Club, part of the Church Music group and a member of EADS and the pub quiz team! I was also Chairman of the Elmswell Village Appraisal group, which carried out a comprehensive survey of village opinions on a range of important local issues.

We produced a report recommending a number of actions on issues from road safety to leisure facilities, based on your wishes, most of which have still to be implemented.

I would now like the opportunity not only to help put this report into action but also to work effectively on your behalf for the benefit of us all.

I hope you will trust me with your vote.

Tracy Murphy

I have lived in Elmswell with my husband for nearly twelve years. We have two young children who attend local schools. As Training Manager for the new youth support and advice service, Connexions Suffolk, I have a professional interest in supporting and helping young people.

I am seeking election to the Parish Council because:

1. I have a particular interest in the concerns of young people in Elmswell. I believe we need to meet the needs of all young people in our village but before we can do so we need to discover what ideas they themselves might have. As the future of our village, these young adults should be encouraged to play a full part in decision-making and to believe that theirs are views we do take seriously.
In practical terms, I would like to see a welcoming, staffed Youth Club catering for all the youth of Elmswell, providing worthwhile, stimulating activities and quality facilities. Employed by a youth support service, I have ready access to specialists who work with young people and their parents in the village. Most valuably, such professionals can advise and support decision-making and strategic thinking in the Parish Council.
2. It is important to see more women on the Parish Council. As women make up over fifty per cent of Elmswell's electorate, this should be reflected in the composition of the Council. Women with children often have needs concerning provision for their children. I would like to see the Council giving consideration to such issues.
3. It is about making a difference. I would like to be actively involved with a new Parish Council that I am sure *is* going to make a difference and I would greatly appreciate your support in the election of 1st May.

Election... Election... Election... Election... Election... Election...

Election... Election... Election... Election... Election... Election...

DISTRICT COUNCIL - 2 Vacancies

Carol Milward and Doug Reed, Liberal Democrats

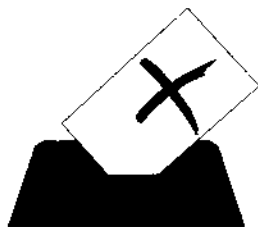
As you may know, Elmswell (with Tostock and Norton), is able to elect two District Councillors at this election. So it's a real opportunity to double the voice of Elmswell at Mid Suffolk. Carol Milward is the current District Councillor, having achieved a notable success for the Liberal Democrats at the by-election in Elmswell in March 2002. She's now joined by Doug Reed who has worked hard for Elmswell through the Parish Council on which he's served for over two years.

For both of us it's the chance to ensure the village gets a greater say where it matters most. There are vital issues facing Elmswell which demand more attention - housing developments (including the need to provide for affordable homes, and to ensure that Elmswell facilities expand and improve), traffic management (not least, the A14 improvement scheme), community safety (including the provision of youth facilities) and the development of rural services generally. Not forgetting the environment - especially by doing all we can to recycle. The introduction of wheelie bins, for example, is an important step towards protecting the environment for future generations.

We are only too aware through, for example, planning matters that local concerns do not always appear to be given sufficient weight at the District Council level. If elected, we'll work hard to ensure that Elmswell has a greater influence at Mid Suffolk. Moreover, to try to ensure that tangible benefits accrue to the village when developments do go ahead.

The Liberal Democrats believe in working together and putting local people above party politics. We both believe that's an important principle and, should we be elected, that is how we would hope to represent the best interests of Elmswell. We firmly believe we can do the job that you and other people in Elmswell need - so would be very grateful for your vote on May 1.

Also standing is David Eтчells Butler - Conservative



Election... Election... Election... Election... Election... Election...

Around and About cont'd., pg 18

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) (Manager T Ingram)

Under 10 Sponsors: Village Homes (Manager J Tuzinkiewicz)

Over 35 Sponsors: C G Finch & Sons.

Monthly Draw March, drawn by D Scase

No 22	Mrs C Pettitt	£50
No 219	D Birch	£35
No 111	B Hayward	£25
No 40	B Smith	£15
No 362	S Cox	£15

Results

First Team:

St Edmunds (Away) Won 5-1, scorers P Hughes 3, S Warby 1, D Scase 1.

Bacton (Away) Won 2-1, scorers P Swallow 1, P Hughes 1.

Coddenham (Away) Won 2-1, scorers P Swallow 1, D Scase 1

Murray Rangers (Away) Won 1-0, scorer D Prewer

Orwell Ath (Away) Drew 1-1, scorer S Finch

Reserves:

BT (Home) Won 5-2, scorers S Britton 4, G Colman 1

Ufford (Away) Lost 3-0

Stonham (Home) Lost 5-0

Parkside (Away) Lost 2-0

Walton (Away) Lost 4-0

Claydon (Away) Won 3-2, scorers T Warby 1, S Chirch 1, S Finch 1

Elmswell Under 11 Girls (report by P Case)
Elmswell 1, Brandon 1

On a cold afternoon Elmswell girls fought very hard against a determined team. Chances at both ends went begging before

a well worked move by a Brandon put them in front. This just stirred Elmswell Girls who put Brandon on the rack and their hard work paid off when an excellent move was smartly finished off by Sasha, the Elmswell leading goal scorer. The Girls team are improving every week and have only lost one game in the last 4, well done girls.

Results:

Elmswell 8, Felixstowe 0

Brandon 1, Elmswell 1

Haverhill 5, Elmswell 1

Elmswell 4, Brandon 1

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) 240689.

ELMSWELL YOUTH FOOTBALL 2003 - 2004

Very soon we need to submit the teams for the Ipswich and Suffolk Sunday League. We are looking for help. Are you a parent/guardian who can help? We will provide kits, pitches, professional coaches and major support for you, but we need your help to run or manage the age groups as follows: Boys Age Groups - U8, U9, U10. Please call Barry Haywood 01359 240951 or Bob Barter 01359 245092, if you are interested.

Carl Finch Memorial Dance. Sponsors so far for our annual charity sell-out (all proceeds to Woolpit Health centre), include:

Falcon Promotions (Paul & Gill Peachey), Guss at Tulipa Landscaping, Mr & Mrs R Leeks, Mr & Mrs M Davey, Peter Dow & Gobbins', Louise's Hairworks, Chris, Debbie and the Elmswell Tavern Social Club, Elmswell Plant Hire Ltd., JD & BJ Baker Farms Ltd., Colin Finch & Sons, Mr & Mrs Trencher at Woolpit Swan, Mr & Mrs J Petchey, Thurlow Nunn Standen Ltd., Mr R Williams at John Ramboth Foods, Mr Yau at Woolpit Fish & Chip Shop, Clive Jenkins at The Assist Direct, the Elmswell Co-op, Burnett Barker Solicitors, Leggett's Transport, Des Bevan, H C Wilson Transport Ltd., Russell, Simon & Adam Lomas, G Goymer, Mr & Mrs K Hollings, Mr & Mrs Sandlow at Euro food Machinery, Roger Dalby, Jean Barker.

Thanks to all for their support of a very good cause.



From M Chaplin of Station Road
'...disgraceful behaviour...'

Congratulations to the four Parish Councillors who have stepped into the breach after the disgraceful behaviour of Councillors Clark and Curry allowing everything to get into a mess and then walking away from it.

Peter Edmonds has been brilliant. He took the Chairman's job on without warning and brought a little humanity back into the Council proceedings. Not to mention some genuine humour and a chance for the public to have their say at last.

We thought we'd have to wait until May for a return to sanity - it looks like Spring came early this year. Thank you to Peter, and Doug Reed, Mary Feeney and Dickie Burch.

From Eddie Stagg of Miller Close
...get back to normal...

I have been to most of the recent Parish Council meetings and have seen the tactics of the 'Ruling Group' - Councillors Clark and Curry backed up by occasional appearances from David Marriott and the mysterious Mr Talbot and by the votes of the other 'Yes Men,' (and Woman!). It has all been pretty nasty and disturbing. The rudeness, the bullying and the feeling that a lot of things weren't seeing the light of day.

The worst was when, having suddenly resigned as Chairman and Vice Chairman, Cllrs Clark and Curry had the cheek to turn up for a meeting. Time and time again things were brought up for which they had had direct responsibility. No Planning discussed for 6 months! No accounts since October! No Clerk since November! Crown Mill Play area in a dangerous state since July! Time and time again they just sat there - as if it was somebody else's fault. Not a word of apology. Not a hint of regret.

They have dragged this village down and they obviously intend to walk away as if nothing has happened. Of their original 'Gang of 9' friends, 5 have already done a runner and left the village. Their 2 heroes haven't had the guts to stand for the election on 1st May - afraid of the truth - so let's hope they go too and leave our village to get back to normal.

They should be very ashamed of what they have done.

.. from Geoff Hayward (e-mail: hayward@homestall.com)
of Station Road

Broadband action for Elmswell

Thanks to the internet, which enabled us to search from Holland for a house in England, we moved to Elmswell after living abroad for 27 years.

One of our "culture-shocks" was to leave a broadband cable internet connection and return to a BT telephone connection that rules out numerous applications because it's just too slow.

First-hand experience convinced me that broadband internet will make a big difference to local residents using the internet for personal, educational or business purposes.

Broadband's benefits include:

'Always on' internet access up to 10 times faster than normal dial up

Freedom to use the telephone and internet simultaneously on the same line

Fast download of large files such as multimedia, software, etc.

When I discovered a group trying to bring ADSL broadband to 01359 telephone exchanges, I volunteered to join the action for Elmswell's exchange. Hopefully local organisations and businesses will lend their support.

All that is needed to bring broadband here is for enough people and businesses in Elmswell and Woolpit connected to the Elmswell exchange (i.e. telephone numbers commencing 01359 24) to express interest in ordering broadband.

Registrations for Elmswell's exchange have increased from around 100 to 140 since local action started three months ago. As recently occurred for Pakenham, when registrations approach 200, BT should set the threshold level for registrations to trigger upgrading our exchange to broadband.

Please register your interest today - and urge your neighbours to do the same.

The website <http://www.01359broadband.co.uk/> gives details on how to register your interest with any broadband provider or simply ask the 01359broadband.co.uk site to do this for you. Remember you don't commit to anything by filling in the form. All you are doing is saying you'd be interested in broadband if it were available. Once our local exchange is broadband enabled, you'll be able to choose who you sign up with.

And if you'd like to help in the action group's efforts in Elmswell or Woolpit, please e-mail: broadband@elmswell.info

... from Lorraine and Jonathan White of 45 Pighile Close

...malicious vandalism...

During the last two weeks we have been subjected to malicious vandalism. The first incident took place on Tuesday 18th March. On this occasion somebody walked up our garden path, stood directly under our bedroom window and threw two large lumps of concrete. This resulted in tiles being broken and our bedroom window completely smashed, while we were asleep in this room.

The second incident took place on Friday 4th April. Our car windscreen was smashed and most of the body panels were scratched, again a large lump of concrete (paving slab) was used. Both incidents took place between 11.30pm and 12 midnight and a person was seen on the first occasion, running along Pighile Close, towards School Road, wearing a hooded garment.

We have absolutely no idea why we should have been targeted in such a vindictive way. Have we upset somebody in the village unknowingly? Is it a case of mistaken identity? Is it senseless vandalism?

The Police are investigating both incidents. If anybody can enlighten us in any way as to why this is happening, please let the Police or us know.

... from Laraine Livings of Mill Gardens

...doggie bins...

I have been a resident in Elmswell now since last October. As I moved from Essex I find living in the country with my daughter wonderful.

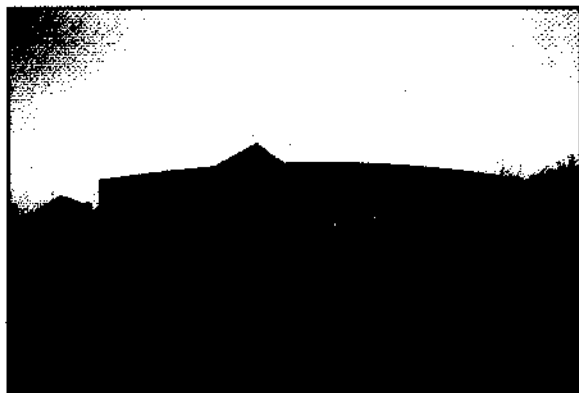
We have just received our new "dustbins", and personally feel they are an excellent idea, but I am amazed that there are no doggie bins anywhere. My turning is a cul-de-sac leading through to a footpath through wonderful open fields, and I am a dog owner, but I am horrified at the number of people who do not clean up after their dogs.

We must have some bins near the footpaths and throughout Elmswell, as loads of people have dogs, and they either don't pick up the mess or, if they do, then they dump the bag at the beginning of the field or in the waste bin at the bus stop in Wetherden Road.

To keep the countryside as it should be, I hope other members of the Parish will get together and see if we cannot sort the dog refuse out next.

UP IN THE MORNING ...

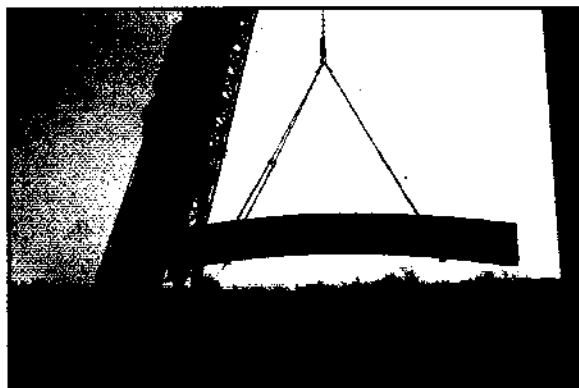
Our recent article on Lord's Bridge aroused considerable interest. The new bridge has arrived. It stood, all 12 tons of it, on Blackbourne car park overnight before being lowered with amazing precision by a 200 tonne crane on to the piers which had been prepared for it. 16 holes had to fit 16 high tensile steel bolts which were



... a bridge of size ...

sticking up out of the concrete. The bridge had been designed and built in Peterborough. The match was exact. With no more than a few hand gestures the engineering team drew the massive steel structure down precisely over the bolts which fitted the holes perfectly. IKEA take note.

This all happened between 6.00 am and 8.00 am on Sunday 23rd March. High Tech. - followed by Low Tech ... a man with a big measuring stick confirmed that the bridge was high enough to allow the trains through; a man with a big spanner bolted it down. It was calm and professional. Not a single hard hat was thrown into the air to celebrate another bit of history made.



... just the right size ...

The past history is to be noted. Some of the bricks and coping stones have been incorporated into the new structure which will be open to walkers within a couple of weeks. Some of the remaining copings will go to the new Memorial Garden on Cooks Road. An official naming ceremony is suggested for our new Lord's Bridge - watch your Newsletter for details.

PARISH COUNCIL

Without the hint of a bang, rather with a benevolent and personable whimper, the last meeting of a four year administration took place on 14th April at the Blackbourne. Just 6 councillors and 30 members of the public, many of them time-served stalwarts who have endured those four years of painful decline in the Community's fortunes, were present. No apologies were received from Cllrs Clark, Curry or Marriott, none of whom was present but whose spirit remained at the heart of so much of the evening's business as Council struggled to effect closure of those 4 turbulent years. The following points of interest were among those discussed.

Wheellie bins. District Councillor Carol Milward noted the concerns expressed regarding the new system which does not seem to deal with the emptying of the litter bins and doggie bins as before. She pointed out that certain households - large families, those with very young children or with a very elderly resident to look after - are entitled to a larger bin on application to Mid Suffolk via the Helpline on 01449 778678.

Finances. Chairman Peter Edmonds gave a brief overview of the Council's financial situation which is becoming more unstable and less transparent by the day as various new factors come to light from the administrative minefield which he entered when thrust into his post. There is an overrun on the bowls pavilion which, the architect advises, may amount to £10,000. As no extra expenditure was authorised by Council, the nature of the extra works is not yet known. Cllr Dick Burch suggested forcefully that this scandalous situation had been hidden by the previous Chairman and Vice Chairman who had guaranteed a fixed price contract. Disposal of the bowls club Portakabins, which had been allowed to deteriorate since the end of last season, is set to cost at least £700. There are many other such commitments which were not factored into the meagre Precept, and, although firm commitments will be honoured, it was pointed out that no further grant aid can be

offered to the many Village organisations which had made recent application in the hope of a more positive response than has often maintained in the recent past. Letters of explanation are to go to all concerned.

Court case. Payment of the solicitor's bill relating to the County Court action against the Amenities Association was agreed in the sum of £3038. This is double the amount budgeted in the Precept calculations and puts further pressure on the Council's finances. The £15,000 which was the subject of the action is now available as Council recently agreed to restrict the use of the bowls pavilion, for which the money was intended, to community use. However, this money was already entered into the Precept calculations as Income and there is no extra financial leeway afforded by the grant.

Hawk End Lane. Applications for 2 further houses in the gardens of properties in Hawk End Lane were considered. The obvious existing access problems down this very narrow ancient way were thought to justify a recommendation for refusal and a plea for District Councillors to come to a site meeting and look for themselves before imposing further problems on residents. Similar reasoning and recommendations are to be made in respect of an application for 2 houses in a garden at Prescott Drive.

Shop Corner - the Mill. Cllr Mary Feeny had attended the recent meeting at Mid Suffolk which dealt with the Planning Application for 14 houses on the site of the old mill building and yard on Station Road. She had reinforced the Parish Council's view that this development, along with the two on the opposite side of School Road which will bring the access to a small estate of 30+ houses out opposite the Co-op, should make some contribution to dealing with the traffic problems which they would inevitably worsen. District Councillors had expressed concern that they had not been made fully aware of the implications of these developments earlier as the Parish Council had not taken up the chance to commence.

Nevertheless, at this late stage, they felt that the only concession they could make was the requirement of a pavement along Station Road for the length of the site towards the railway crossing. Cllr Dick Burch expressed the view that the Village had been badly served by the lack of attention to Planning Applications over the past 4 years and urged those elected to the District Council in May to secure a place on the relevant Planning Committee to fight Elmswell's corner and return to the days when developers had had to put something back into the community to help soften the impact of their enterprise.

Road safety. Cllr Doug Reed tabled a comprehensive report on the activities of and progress made by his Community Action Plan Working Party which had tried to follow up the issues raised by the Village Appraisal but which had been fighting an uphill battle to gain recognition for its work in the political climate which had, until recently, maintained. Nevertheless, he confirmed that finance was now available through the County Council for the establishment of Elmswell as a Priory Village towards road

safety and traffic management improvements. To this end a public meeting will be held at The Blackbourne early in May, details to follow.

Village Plan. Cllr Mary Feeney recommended that the recent agreement by Suffolk ACRE to lead Elmswell through the process of a community-based Action Plan charting the way the village should develop in the future should be recommended to the new Council as a matter of priority.

Late bus to Bury. It was agreed that Elmswell should divert a substantial element of its Parish Transport Grant, made by the Countryside Commission via the County Council, to a joint venture with Woolpit, Beyton, Tostock and Drinkstone to provide late buses to and from Bury St Edmunds on Friday and Saturday nights. Initial approaches regarding this initiative had been ignored by Elmswell Parish Council, but Cllr Doug Reed, having discovered the existence of the proposal, had argued for late inclusion. The scheme is targeted at younger people who might appreciate the chance of a bus

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home after midnight.

Website. In the light of the emerging parlous state of the Council's finances, it was decided to investigate the possibility of curtailing the Council's agreement to fund a website for a further year at a cost of £1,000. It was generally agreed that the various free offers of a website which had been spurned by the previous Chairman might be revisited and that a much simpler site would suffice, given the existence of a well established site provided at no cost by a private individual to the village.

Youth facilities. Cllr Keith Harrison asked Councillors to consider taking further a scheme which had been formulated by interested individuals in the village and which seeks to address the shortfall in facilities for young people. Grants are available. It was argued that the motivation behind the initiative is entirely sound and that it had been one of the sadder features of the last 4 years that the needs of young people had been entirely ignored. However, serious reservations were expressed regarding the

proposal for yet another single-purpose building with yet more dedicated toilets, yet another kitchen and very limited chance of multi-purpose use. Cllr Peter Edmonds suggested that it could turn out to be as embarrassing as the expensive lean-to currently under construction at Blackbourne and already appearing to be something of a white elephant. It was agreed that the new Council be encouraged to take the spirit of the proposals forward by way of a Working Party which should be aware of the wider implications of further community provision.

Haughley Bends. Once again, it was observed, consultation on an important issue had not taken place at Elmswell as letters had not reached Council. Cllr Doug Reed is to liaise with Haughley Parish Council and offer support of their views which seem, generally, to accord with those expressed by Elmswell Councillors in their better-late-than-never discussion.

Building extension at Blackbourne. Following a further meeting with the Architect which included the Blackbourne

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Management Association representing user groups, Peter Edmonds confirmed that it was too late to make radical changes to the ill-considered and expensive lean-to addition to the side of Blackbourne. The tiled roof, which is bizarrely specified so as to match the roof of the bowls pavilion rather than that of the main hall against which it stands, was ordered and on site before it could be cost-effectively cancelled. However, some saving might be expected by the omission of the internal wall and various features which were included to provide a Parish Clerk's Office which might well not be needed. Any saving would have to go, however, towards reinstating access to the kitchen of the main hall which has been made inaccessible by the siting of the new building across the original roadway.

Crown Mill play area. Cllr Peter Edmonds is to pursue costings for remedial works as advised by ROSPA, many of which have been outstanding for over 9 months. In the meantime, the facility remains closed.

Maintenance contracts. Cllr Mary Feeney reported on a better than expected response to advertising in the Newsletter for

contractors to bid for the maintenance of the Cemetery and for Crown Mill for the remainder of this calendar year. From 3 tenders in either case, Tulipa Gardens of Elmswell secured the contract for maintaining Crown Mill, including extra specified work to the shrubs which have been poorly tended for several years and incorporating a weekly safety check of the play area. Graham Newman, also of Elmswell, was successful in securing the contract at the Cemetery with a proviso that the main hedge be the subject of specialist tree surgery for this year to remedy poor treatment in recent years. Cllr Dick Burch welcomed the return of a better standard of stewardship to restore the Cemetery to its former pristine glory. The contracts were allocated at £1840 and £2178 respectively. Both contractors are professional and have insurance cover.

Parish Clerk. A shortlist of 6 candidates is to be interviewed with a view to having a Clerk in post in time for the first meeting of the new Council.

Next meeting. The first meeting of the new Council will take place on Wednesday 7th May.

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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.

April

- 27 Elmswell CC v Brandon. Friendly.
2.15pm at The Blackbourne

May

- 1 10.00am, Coffee at Methodist Exchange Hall
4 Elmswell CC v Thurston 2nd XI. League. 2.15pm at The Blackbourne
8 History Group, St John's Church, 7.30pm, Stuart Bowell, Suffolk breweries, past and present
11-18 Christian Aid Week
11 Elmswell CC v Lavenham. League. 2.15pm at The Blackbourne
15 10.00am, Coffee at Methodist Exchange Hall
16 Summer Concert by Stowupland High School at 7.30pm in St John's Church
18 Elmswell CC v Woolpit 3rd XI. League. 2.15pm at The Blackbourne

June

- 8 Elmswell CC v Stowupland 2nd XI. League. 2.15pm at The Blackbourne
12 History Group, St John's Church, 7.30pm, Pip Wright, The Dissolution of the Monasteries
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
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
12-13 Art Festival, St John's Church

October

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

Tell us more - Tel 241841