

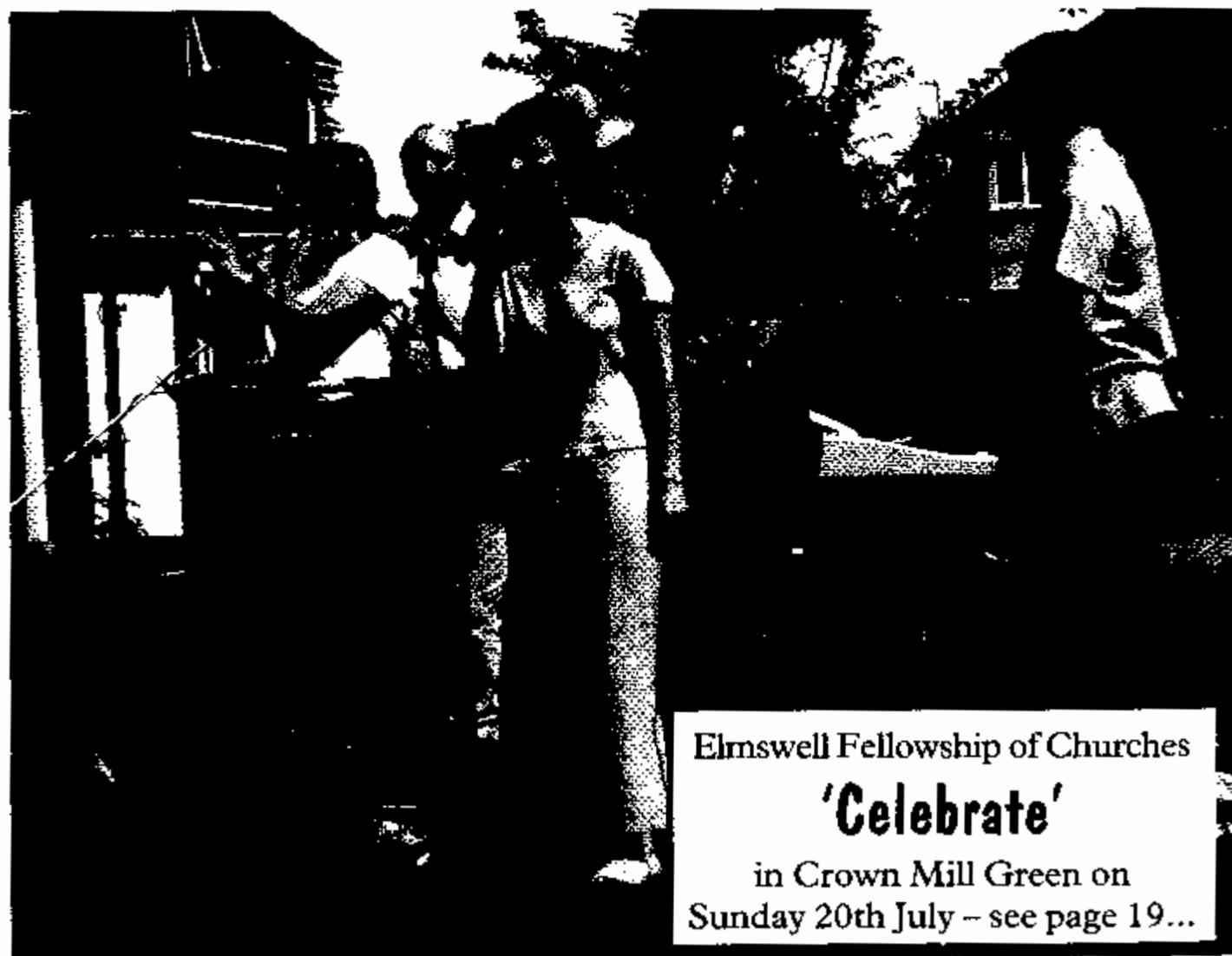
Eighteen years of Parish Record.....  
..... Community News and the Community's Views.



# The ELMSWELL Newsletter

AUGUST 2003

..... Your Parish Matters



Elmswell Fellowship of Churches

**'Celebrate'**

in Crown Mill Green on  
Sunday 20th July - see page 19...

**Published by the Elmswell Amenities Association Reg. Charity No. 304879.  
Delivered free to every household and to businesses in the community on  
the first Friday of every month.**

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

**is from Dick Burch of  
Wetherden Road**

**As a Parish Councillor, I think I should explain why the village is about to be in such a terrible muddle with traffic at Shop Corner.**

For the last 4 years, the Council wouldn't listen when a minority of sensible Councillors argued that unless we objected to some of the Planning Applications that were coming up, there would be dangerous chaos at this already busy junction.

They made no comment when Mr Jewers applied for 14 houses coming out on The Street within a few yards of the the Co-op over a big new road across his field on the corner.

They made no comment on the 22 new dwellings coming out on the railway crossing at Station Road.

They made no comment when Bakers applied for 14 houses on the site of the old mill on Station Road, building right up to Shop Corner.

They made no comment when OC Jewers Ltd applied for another 24 houses on the site of their industrial premises using the same road as the first 14 to come out at Shop Corner.

These applications were cleverly made to avoid having to pay anything to the village for road improvements, affordable houses etc.

I may have not been too good at school, but I can add 14, 22, 24 and 14 and come up with 74. No 'Affordable Homes' - rented to locals by a Housing Association. Nothing for the village youngsters to move into. More big 3 & 4 bedroom 'Executive Homes,' like the 30 that are nearly finished on our green space at Fightle Close - a quarter of a million pounds each.

74 houses with at least 2 cars each coming out each day, sometimes several times a day, that's over 150 extra *within 50 yards of Shop Corner* to add to the chaos we already see there.


Mary Feeney managed to argue at the last minute and get us a bit of pavement down Station Road in front of the Mill development. Other than that, including the Hopkins Homes houses at Fightle Close, the village has had absolutely nothing from the developers to help us absorb the traffic, the people, the children at the school etc., etc., resulting

**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 27th August 2003.

from 104 new houses in a couple of years!

At the last Parish Council meeting, we were even reading a letter arguing that the second batch of housing on the Jewers land should not have to pay a contribution to the County Council as a gesture towards the added strain on education (the other sites were 'too small' to even be asked for this.)

I just hope that the developers are around when the traffic hits Station Road. It isn't too late for a gesture to the community. A bit of land at the corner to allow some space for the traffic. Not because they have to - because, having taken so much from us, it is only right to put a little bit back.



**Don't miss  
this year's**

*extravaganza*

**The Autumn Fayre**  
Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September  
from Noon at Blackbourne

Free stall pitch to  
Village organisations

Enquiries to Peter Edmonds  
on 241 640

\*\*\*\*\*

## THANK YOU ...

To Colin Finch for clearing the scrap from Blackbourne Meadow, to Wayne Jarvis and Guus Hamel for helping make Crown Mill play area safe... and to Gary Hurrell and Andrew Clarke for helping shift the fencing from Crown Mill ...

*DECAF*

*Dynamic Elmswell Community  
Action Force.*

\*\*\*\*\*

The deadline for the next issue is 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday 27th August 2003. Copy to Gobbins 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 ...

## **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**

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

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**Match Ball Sponsor:** W Jarvis (Landscaping Elmswell)

**Under 11 Sponsors:** D J Fishbar (Elmswell) (Manager T Ingram)



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## Around and About cont'd., pg3

**Under 10 Sponsors:** Village Homes  
(Manager J Tuzinkiewicz)

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Cocksedge**

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No 112	S Ford	£35
No 283	J Crease	£25
No 399	R Granger	£15
No 35	L Wells	£15

The report of the Youth Team 7-a-side tournament will be in next months newsletter.

**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 CRICKET CLUB

(Sponsored by Manvers Triumph)

Forget Test Match cricketers. Even village cricketers know that (and forgive the technical jargon here) it's virtually impossible to adjudge a batsman lbw when a right-arm in-swing bowler is operating from round the wicket, especially when that batsman is taking a leg stump guard and when his pad flap is barely grazed by the ball's passage through to the opposition wicket-keeper. With me so far? But it transpires...well, colleagues will know what I'm about to say. Like Clive of India, I stood amazed by my own moderation. "Upon my soul, Mr Umpire", I observed to the official (we'll call him, for argument's sake, Stef Parker of Elmswell CC), "I have never been given out like that before." "I can assure you Doug (he somehow knew my name) that the delivery concerned straightened." "If the delivery to which you refer straightened



to the degree that you imply, Mr Umpire", I remarked, "then the bowler concerned should be playing for England." Actually, this is merely the gist of our conversation. I was kidding about the moderation.

The man in white (or in Stef's case, royal blue) is, they say, always right - regardless of being in Division 4 of the Suffolk League, invariably ancient, astigmatic, deaf and disorganised as well. It's just that, even though he invariably comes from your side (this is usual in village cricket, i.e. when it's your team that bats, then you provide the umpires) one must sometimes be patient on the occasions when the man in white's rightness is not immediately obvious. Or even, for that matter, four weeks later. Everything we say about umpires should, of course, be taken with a large pinch of salt, e.g. "I don't really care how good the umpire is, as long as he's consistent." Translated, this

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## **Around and About conf'd., pg5**

means consistent in giving us 'not out' and giving them 'out'. To be fair it takes a certain sort of player to stand there and be abused all afternoon. And, even in Elmswell, we have our fair share of certain sorts! Stef knows I forgive him for giving me out (honest...) - which is why he now, point blank, refuses to umpire when I'm batting.

The opposition's umpires are, needless to say, worse than ours. Typically, as Steve Jordan would allege, they enforce the game's Laws without having ever consulted them. I've seen Deano Rust (believe it or not) bowl a ball that pitched perhaps an inch outside off-stump (forgive the technical jargon here), turn maybe two inches (much to everyone's surprise - not least Deano himself) and strike the batsman's ankle directly in front. It was almost adding to the batsman's embarrassment to appeal - but he did. Gobsmackingly, the appeal was turned down. What ??!! "Err, Mr Umpire", suggested Deano, "Just to remind you, for 'out', you raise your right index finger in the air." Nothing. "The ball pitched outside off-stump" (forgive the technical jargon here) proclaimed the umpire, "so 'not out' is the correct adjudication." "Hey Ump", said Mr Greathead from cover "It doesn't have to pitch in line if it hits in line" he shouted with his usual ruler-sharp knowledge of the game. No joy.

A few overs later I heard the umpire chuckling with one of the opposition's players near square leg (forgive the technical jargon here) "Y'know", he confided, "one of these days I've really gotta look up that lbw Law." Perhaps some of our players could too. Or ask Mr Sparrow, of course. He's soon put them right. And it would save, as Mr Sadler pointed out, the 'long march' to the pavilion that we each sometimes make (some of us more than others). But then umpiring is an inexact science at our level.

Memories, on the other hand, are acute and very, very long...watch out Stef (and others!).

### **Recent League Results**

Elmswell 201 for 6 (Van Den Berg 53, Greathead 49, Reed 42 not out); Milden 76 (Reed 2 for 10, Greathead 2 for 19). Elmswell 72 (Parker 26); Thurston 73 for 1.

Lavenham 124 (Reed 4 for 19, Greathead 2 for 31); Elmswell 128 for 6 (Jordan 38, Van Den Berg 37).

Finally, a word to my esteemed Newsletter colleague - the correspondent from the Baptists (I use the word esteemed loosely and in an ill-advised fashion, of course). Did you see that 'visitors' are welcome at the WI? Perhaps we should go - from their report last month I see they visited a 'stud' in Thetford and had a competition for tarts (forgive the technical jargon here)!!

## **WOODWORKS**

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

It makes our reports look positively tame. Now where is it they meet...?

**Doug Reed (Tel: 241009)**

### **SCORPION KARATE ACADEMY**

The Scorpion Kids Karate Academy meets on a Tuesday evening at the Methodist Church Hall.

The first class starts at 5.00 pm until 6.00 pm and is a fun, friendly and exciting class for primary school aged children. From 6.00 pm until 7.00 pm youngsters at middle and upper school age are very welcome.

A special ladies only fitness class runs from 7.00 pm until 8.00 pm, this class incorporates fitness, kickboxing and self defence moves and is superb way of getting very fit whilst having lots of fun.

The Scorpion Academy has branches in Elmswell, Bacton, Old Newton and Stowmarket. Recently over two hundred members took part in the academy coloured belt exams.

The Scorpion Academy is run by Mark Trent - Fifth Degree Master Blackbelt and Triple Kickboxing Champion. Details are available by calling Mark on 01449 781679 or come along to one of the classes.

### **MSDChat**

Further to on-going issues about the 'TwinBin Recycling' scheme, I hope (assuming you're one of the current users) that you completed and returned your questionnaire detailing what you think of it so far (a Morecambe and Wise joke springs to mind!). You may also like to know that the Lib Dems are pushing MSDC to provide free bags for pensioners for their garden waste and, at the same time, to consider employing stronger bags which many current users feel are inadequate for the task. Watch



this space...

**Planning** matters will always be a priority in the context of MSCD and it is important that the village benefits from any substantial developments through what is known as a Section 106 Agreement. This, in recognition of the impact of any major application, requires the payment of an educational contribution and provides for a proportion of the houses as affordable units. One especially important application which could come under a Section 106 Agreement is "OL/167/02 (Outline) - Construction of 24 houses and estate road at West Site, Cottage Granaries, New Road, Elmswell". At the time of writing, this is to be determined by the Planning Referrals Committee on July 23. As District Councillors we are anxious to ensure that the policy of requiring the Section 106 Agreement to be applied is



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## **Around and About cont'd., pg9**

properly carried through, and hope that we can report a successful outcome, to the benefit of Elmswell, in the next issue. MSDC has had to defer its intended co-ordinated corporate responses to **village appraisals and plans** until March 2004.

OK, this may not sound exciting and, on the face of it, we're not happy with that decision. However, it has a benefit for Elmswell. The Parish Council, through its Community Action Advisory Committee, will shortly consider its approach to the production of a village plan (started through the previous Community Action Plan Working Party). Given the time it takes to consult residents prior to compiling a meaningful document, it should enable the Parish Council to hit MSDC at about the same time that it's ready to provide a collective, and hopefully positive, response.

Finally this month, we have been able to raise serious concerns about the MSDC ground maintenance services and, in particular, grass-cutting. The frequency and quality of grass-cutting in the village has been the subject of repeated complaints (from individuals, the Parish Council and sports clubs). Since, through a specific agreement, the village is now charged for this service, it is vital that it meets the standard demanded. An officer report is due to be submitted to the next MSDC Scrutiny Sub-Committee (on which I sit) and I will seek to apply the necessary pressure to ensure the appropriate service levels are effective. I will provide a report on the outcome, not least to the Parish Council.

Should you need to contact us, please don't hesitate (we're especially available for teas, coffee etc!). Any queries etc. about MSDC to either:

Carol Milward, 38 Pretyman Avenue,  
Bacton IP14 4NY (Tel: 01449 781810);  
e-mail:

carol.milward@midsuffolk.gov.uk);

or myself

Doug Reed, Second Thoughts, Church  
Road, Elmswell IP30 9DY (Tel:  
241009);

e-mail: doug.reed@midsuffolk.gov.uk)

### **ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH**

The main holiday time for most people (or a time to avoid holidays for others). Firstly a grateful thanks to everyone involved in our CU bar-b-que at the blackbourne on July 8th. Everyone enjoyed themselves, I wish I had been there too but work commitments kept me away this year, and Tony had a stiff neck (I know a joke there but am not brave enough). The support from others and parents was brilliant however, and everyone rallied round. We managed to light the automatic lighting bar-b-que for the 10th time with a match and not cause an explosion or blow up the extension to

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## **Around and About cont'd., pg 11**

the hall. The parachute and games were enjoyed by all, and everyone I have spoken to had a great time. The CU club takes a break for the school holidays and recommences on Tuesday 9th September (a day before you know what - don't forget my card). Join us as we start a new term at 6pm, it was pleasing to see so many of you (over 50 I think) enjoying our bar-b-que.

Although our Ladies and home group meetings are taking a break this month our Chapel will be open throughout August on a Thursday evening between 7.30 - 8.15pm. If anyone in the village feel the need to enter for a quiet time on their own, or pray with someone from the Chapel please feel free to drop in anytime within the above period. Although a lot of things break up in the Summer and meetings stop, the world and our hectic lives carry on and it is sometimes very refreshing to either talk, pray or just sit on your own for a short time to re-charge those batteries.

During the month of August our Sunday services continue at 10.30am with Charlie beginning the month, Stephen doing a couple in the middle and myself taking the service on 31st August. Please join us for any of the above (especially the last one) they always put me at the end of a bank holiday weekend when everyone is away for some reason - can't think why!!!

(going for the sympathy vote again).

Finally on 7th September it's the fete. I'll be there again organising the treasure hunt for the children along the sort of lines of finding as many £20 notes as you can and bringing them to me. A chocolate donut will be awarded to the winner who gives me the most. See you at the fete if not before - I shall be available for newsletter signing if required.

**Mark**

I must be changing - I haven't insulted Doug, the cricket/football/WI/gardening club this month.

How many members of an established 110 year old church does it take to change a light bulb - TEN - one to actually change the bulb and nine to say how much they liked the old one. (I knew it wouldn't last).

### **ELMSWELL TODDLERS**

This month the children (and parents) enjoyed a trip to Banham Zoo. It happened to be on one of the hottest days of the year but a great time was had by all. Some of the children got the chance to learn about and touch some rather unusual 'creepy crawlies'. These included a giant land snail, a hissing cockroach and a small snake. I don't know who was more scared, the children or the animals! We all had an outdoor picnic and a train ride



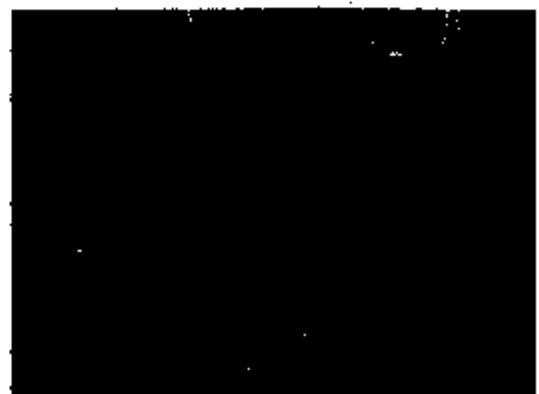
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## **Around and About cont'd., pg 12**

as well as looking at a wide variety of animals. The baby pygmy goats were a particular hit as they were very friendly but did like nibbling shoes!

The events we have lined up for this month are the Family Barbeque including Grand Prize Raffle Draw (10th August), Teddy Bear's Picnic (20th August) and our Adult Bowling Night (28th August). If you would like to purchase any raffle tickets to help support your local toddler group, please call Caroline Long on (01359) 242824 for more details - prizes include makeovers, vouchers, attraction tickets, toys and much more. The next nearly new sale will be held on Saturday 27th September at 2pm until 3.30pm. This event has always been well supported and I am sure this one will be no exception. If you are interested in selling at the sale please contact Sue Rochford on (01359) 244184. If you are interested

in helping out on the day and getting a sale preview please contact Sarah Spark on (01359) 242840.

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 1.30pm - 3.00pm and Wednesdays 10.00am - 11.30am. We 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 chat to other mums whilst the children play safely. For any further information or to meet someone from the group before you venture in, please contact our chairman Caroline on (01359) 242824.

**Sarah Spark**  
**Vice Chairman**

### **ELMSWELL HELPING HAND CLUB**



July has been a busy month for the club starting with our Strawberry supper on Thursday July 3rd when about 60 members enjoyed a buffet supper provided by the ladies of the committee. This was rounded off with large portions of strawberries and cream, by the time we had eaten and had tea and coffee there was just time for a chat and the raffle. Very many thanks to all who gave the food.

Thursday July 17th took us back to the countryside when Jim and Kathy Snell came along with a fine collection of walking sticks which he had made as his hobby. He explained in detail the uses which various sticks were put to and how he carved the heads using wood or horns from sheep deer and even buffalo from Scotland. To conclude his talk, Kathy read a poem which highlighted his

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## Around and About cont'd., pg 15

obsession to his hobby (he has sticks in every room of his house).

Saturday July 19th saw 37 members go to Clacton for the first of our summer trips. The weather was brilliant and it has been reported that several members took to the beach and went paddling, but there is no evidence that there was any skinny dipping. Our last meeting on Thursday 31st July will be a bingo session otherwise they will get withdrawal symptoms. August starts with a return visit to the Cotton Mechanical Museum on Thursday 14th when we will need to leave Elmswell just after 6.30pm

**Grant Elliston**

### ELMSWELL GARDENING CLUB

Here we are again at the summer break, with the 'Open Gardens



Show'. I'm sure you will agree that many people had a very enjoyable Sunday afternoon on 21st July looking at the efforts of many dedicated gardeners. Thank you all for producing a great display. The comments of many of the visitors were most encouraging and this includes the overall condition of the village. We thank Guus Hamel of Tulipa Landscapes for his sponsorship again this year. Also the efforts of all who kept the visitors refreshed with tea and cakes. We had visitors from as far as Ipswich who heard of us via "Radio Suffolk", and one of the raffle winners lived in Lincolnshire, so our advertising must have worked. Again, thank you all.

A reminder of the next meeting on 18th September when Mr Bob Jackson speaks about "Winter Hanging Baskets". You are all welcome, and don't forget the competition of 5 tomatoes.

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### E A D S

Dragons! Dukes! and evil deeds???

whatever next?? well if you keep September 18, 19, 20 free and come along on one of those nights to our next production you will know all about '*The Thwarting of Baron Bolligrew*'.

But before September do you have any time to come to our rescue ... there is scenery to be painted, props to be made, costumes to be created and not to mention help on performance nights. If you have some spare time and are looking for something to do then please pop along to the hall any Monday night from 7.30pm. Alternatively give me a ring first on 01359 259062. Tickets will be on sale in the Post Office during August - so watch out for our posters as they go up around the village.

**Sue Dey**  
(Chair of EADS)



## **Around and About cont'd., pg 17**

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

The Summer Fair at The Cedars on 5 July was a great success; we are grateful to Rosemary and David Oliver for inviting us to use their garden and for making everyone so welcome. The Rector opened the proceedings, after which we were entertained by the Elmswell School Dancers; the live Juke Box was kept busy with our requests and the various stalls did a steady trade; the children enjoyed the bouncy castle and Colin's Circus skills - and the bowling, skee ball and hoop la were as popular as ever; teas were served and a great afternoon was enjoyed by all!! The proceeds, which were for Church General Funds exceeded £1200. Thank you to everyone who supported the afternoon.

**'Celebrate!'** - the open-air service arranged by the Elmswell Fellowship of

Churches - was held at Crown Mill on 20 July. It was really good to see and hear so many people enjoying the music and listening to the various introductions to favourite hymns which had been chosen by members of the three Churches. Singing was accompanied by Norton Salvation Army Band and the Band from St John's Church. Helen Tilney sang a solo and Revd Mike McNamara led the service, performed a one-man sketch illustrating one of Jesus' miracles, and gave a short talk. The weather was lovely, the trains didn't interrupt the proceedings and we all enjoyed this time of Celebration together. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to arrange the service also to the Parish Council for permitting us to use Crown Mill for the event.

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

"The Friends" was set up in 1995-6 with the aim of raising funds for the fabric of the Church - we have been successful in our efforts so far and have some generous and faithful members. The yearly subscription is £5 (minimum) and various fund raising events are held throughout the year - new members are welcome.

The Friends' Annual Festival of Art, Music and Flowers will be held in St John's Church.

Friday 12 September - Cheese and Wine and Concert - Tickets £5.

Saturday 13 September Art Exhibition from 10.00 am - 6.00 pm - refreshments available. Most of the pictures exhibited - all by local artists, will be on sale.

Sunday 14 September - Annual Service of the Friends of St John's Church at 10.30am, when the preacher will be Revd Prebendary John Pearce. Lunch will be available - booking essential.

Sunday 14 September - Art Exhibition open from 1.00pm - 5.00pm refreshments available.

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# **BROADBAND GROUP FO**

The local broadband campaign reached an exciting stage on 23rd July, the closing date for submission of reports to the Elmswell Newsletter.

On 10th July came the good news that BT had as last announced a trigger level of pre-registrations for updating our exchange to broadband. The bad news was that for some reason it had been set at 500 - their natino-wide maximum requirement - and we had amassed on 211 pe-registrations!

Since we had previously achieved up to 28 pre-registrations per month, it looked like we still had a very long journey to broadband.

The effect of the mixture of good and bad news was to provoke an immense determination to reach the BT target without further ado.

You have may have seen some of the resulting action to accelerate the campaign, e.g.:

- the ELMSWELL.NET website was refocused on the need to "Pre-regiseter NOW" and an on-line form was added.

- pre-registration details were kept as simple as possible.
- the Elmswell and Woolpit parish councils agreed to help pay for pre-registration forms to be published in the village newsletters.
- thanks to local co-operation, there are collection boxes with spare forms sited in both villages.
- a shocking pink promotional flyer was distributed by BT.
- 100 local websites were prompted by e-mail to pre-register.
- the Bury Free Press and the Citizen gave the campaign very helpful write-ups.

But the most imporant action of all in acceleating pre-registrations has been the very many hours of work put in by broadband enthusiasts in Elmswell, Wetherden and, particularly, Woolpit. They have been out in the villages explaining in person about broadband and facilitating pre-registration.

As a result, in the 13 days since the trigger was announced, pre-registrations have grown spectacularly to reach 471 on 23rd July.

Overshooting their 500 requirement may help to convince BT of the strength of local demand for broadband, so please continue to pre-register on the ELMSWELL.NET website or using the form opposite.

## **STOP PRESS**

Internet users on the Elmswell exchange became "trigger-happy" at 8pm on 24 July when broadband pre-registrations passed 500!

## **Around and About cont'd., pg19**

The Friends' Quiz was launched at the Summer Fair - 50 questions on Friends and Friendship. Entry forms are available from the Church or from Jean Folkard (Tel: 01359 242099) £1 per entry. The closing date is 10 October 2003 and the winners will be announced at the Friends' Supper on 25 October.

### **Services etc., at St. John's Church**

#### **Sunday 10 August**

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am Parish Praise

#### **Sunday 17 August**

10.30am Holy Communion (CW)

#### **Sunday 24 August**

10.30am Morning Prayer (CW)

11.30am Holy Communion

#### **Sunday 31 August**

10.30am Holy Communion (CW)

Please note the slight changes in the pattern of services from September

#### **Sunday 7 September**

9.30am Family Service with Music Group

10.30am Coffee

11.00am Morning Prayer (BCP)

followed by Holy Communion (BCP)

#### **Sunday 14 September**

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am Parish Praise

Annual Service of Friends of St. John's Church

There is no Sunday School until Sunday 21 September 2003.

### **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.

You can choose to commemorate a personal event, an anniversary, or any other special occasion. Alternatively you can simply make a donation.

For the summer months the lights will be on between 8.00pm and midnight.

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

### **July 2003 Sponsorship not previously acknowledged**

28 in loving memory of Violet Goymer on her Birthday, 28 July

### **August 2003 Sponsorships**

22 in memory of Betty Margaret Greathead

23 wishing Audrey Hunt (nee Howe) a Happy Birthday. Love, Kath

30 to celebrate the marriage of Rhona and Simon

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



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*Letter to Ed from Mr D Sixsmith of Elliston Close*

## **Footpaths**

If you find a footpath (Right of Way) problem e.g. OVERGROWN, broken stile, footbridge or sign etc. **DO REPORT IT.** For Elmswell, Woolpit, Tostock and westwards:- West Area Rights of Way Office, Shire Hall, B.S.E. 01284 532428 or for Wetherden, Gt. Ashfield:- Central Area RoW Office, Lodge Lane, Gt. Blakenham 01473 830010. It is helpful if you can give exact details as to the location of the problem e.g. a map ref.

After months of nagging there are now two new stiles each with a DOG GATE for the path which runs across Warren Farm, Wetherden (where the Woolpit Steam Rally is now held) at 002627 and 999623. I hope soon the path between 995623 to 998629 will be cut. Things are only achieved if we take the trouble to report/complain.

For RoW problems anywhere in the country you can usually track down the County's RoW officer(s) from the County Council's website - RoW people seem to enjoy a low profile! Far too many of our footpaths become impassable to families in the lovely summer months due to overgrowth. Please take the trouble to report/complain. Currently I am struggling to get FP13 cut north of the railway.

*Letter to Ed from a local resident - name and address supplied*

## **Nuisance at the Blackbourne**

I refer to the report of the last Parish Council meeting in the recent Newsletter. I note there is a possibility a barrier may be erected across the entrance to the new car park in an attempt to reduce the nuisance. I intend no criticism of the new Parish Council but do not believe this will prove an effective solution to the problem. With the best will in the world the barrier is bound to be left open on occasions with the obvious outcome. The local Fire Officer may also have comment to make regarding the need for access in the event of a fire. In any event the nuisance is just as apparent when the Blackbourne is in use for meetings, functions or events and a barrier would no doubt remain open during these times.

The perpetrators of this nuisance are not only driving vehicles that must be breaking the law as far as noise emissions are concerned, they are breaking the speed limit and frequently drive dangerously on the wrong side of the road. Different riders are seen driving the same vehicle at different times so one also wonders if they are covered by proper insurance. It seems that most people would acknowledge that the law is being openly flouted in addition to the nuisance. However, this seems to have escaped the attention of the local constabulary. Certainly for as long as this nuisance has been going on I have not seen a policeman in the area. Is it too much to ask for them to take an interest in this matter and embark on a little "Community Policing"? Surely a little effort on their part would sort this problem out before someone is seriously injured or even worse.

*Letter to Ed from Mrs Sylvia Bacon (nee Mulley) of Maldon, Essex*

## **...Some very happy memories ...**

Looking at some old copies of your Newsletter at my uncles the other day, brought back some very happy memories.

Both my parents were born in Elmswell. My mother was born in 1918 in a house opposite the Fox Hotel. She has a twin sister and came from a family of five. My

grandfather, Frank Kerridge, was signalman and when we stayed there I used to take his lunch over to him and help him open and close the level-crossing gates. Great fun!

My mother was staying with her parents during the war when I was born, but for a complication in late pregnancy when she was taken to Ipswich Hospital, I would have been born in Elmswell.

My father was James Mulley - son of Herbert Mulley who I think was a bulider. My father was youngest of six. My parents were married in Elmswell Church on October 21st 1939, I was baptised there in 1941.

I can remember the points being changed by levers in the signal box and waving the flags out of the window. The mill near the station was also fascinating to watch.

I walked to the Bacon Factory with my Grandfather where he bought the pork to make his own sausages.

My Grandfather was a Governor at the village school and very well known in Elmswell. Our trips to Elmswell by steam train of course were very exciting. There were always roses entwined around the railings on the platform, a very pretty little station.

I really enjoyed seeing the old photographs of the station, signal box and level-crossing gates on the cover of your Newsletters. I'm sure you can imagine what fun it was riding on those level-crossing gates.

I hope to visit Elmswell sometime in the future.

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## HEDGEROW SURVEY

A long term project to map the ancient hedgerows within our Parish...  
our own set of maps and records of this priceless natural resource  
plus our details lodged at the Suffolk Biological Records Centre...

**Come and hear further details from  
Guy Ackers of 'Greenprint'  
at Blackbourne**

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30**

*Everyone welcome - you don't have to volunteer!*

*Further details from Mary Feeney on 241 901*



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## PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

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### PLANNING

The Planning Committee met on 14<sup>th</sup> July, viewed plans for and discussed the following applications to which they made no objection;

- 707/03 Conservatory to the rear of 47 Eastern Way
- 718/03 New conservatory at Kasita, Church Road
- 783/03 2 storey office accommodation at Micro Force, Grove Lane
- 769/03 Erection of 3 bedroom chalet type bungalow at Felicia, Church Road
- 744/03 Detached garage & porch at Rosefield, Hawk End Lane.

The following were also discussed and it was agreed that comments should be forwarded, as below, to the Planning Authority;

704/03 Extension and alterations at 5, Bennett Avenue:

This proposal would result in an unacceptable loss of amenity to the adjoining property, in that the shading of the sun from the south and the overbearing result of the new wall to the boundary would entirely change the prospect of the outside amenity area currently enjoyed by the neighbouring property. There would almost certainly be a detrimental effect on the value of the house at No. 7. However, a modified scheme, allowing either the two storey element or development which would not impinge so dramatically on the adjacent property might be acceptable.

OL/91/03 Erection of single storey dwelling on land at Kiln Lane (O.S. Ref. Q2 0090)

This application should be refused in that it seeks to build outside of the village Settlement Boundary where the

development of permanent dwellings should not be granted Planning Permission. Further, in that it seeks to remove the existing permission which is personal to the incumbents who occupy the mobile home on the site as members of the Travelling Community. This would mean the loss of the site for the purpose for which the Personal Permission was granted and remove for ever the chance that the land will revert to countryside or agricultural use once the current occupants vacate it. Permission would also set a precedent making further applications from adjacent mobile home sites difficult to resist. These sites include those having Personal Permission for families of the Travelling Community and the removal of such sites from those available for this purpose would add further pressure on the ever-present demand for more such sites in the countryside.

The comments of the Parish Council go forward to Mid Suffolk District Council for further consideration and eventual decision. Plans are always available to be viewed and, if necessary, copied at the Parish Clerk's Office by arrangement on 244 134.

### ORDINARY MEETING

The Council meets throughout the year on the third Monday of the month, excepting August. The July meeting was held on 21<sup>st</sup> at the Blackbourne with 14 members of the Public present together with County Cllr. Mrs Jane Storey and District Cllr. Mrs. Carol Milward. The following matters were among those discussed.

**Grove Lane junction** County Cllr Jane Storey reported that the improvements at this long standing problem area, where

larger and larger HGV's have had to negotiate the tight bend for many years, will include a better flow pattern for the watercourse which is now piped and secure from the constant battering and erosion which had lead to an unsightly and dangerous result in the recent past. In subsequent discussion, Councillors decided to write and thank Cllr Storey for the significant part she had played personally in helping to broker the agreements necessary for this much needed improvement to take place.

**Garden refuse** District Cllr Carol Milward confirmed the satisfactory progress of the Twin Bin initiative and that refinements continue to be made, including consideration of the provision of garden refuse sacks free of charge to pensioners.

**Accounts** The Parish Clerk, Peter Dow, confirmed that the Internal Auditors appointed as an emergency measure in the

light of the poor financial control towards the end of the previous Council Administration, had signed off the accounts for 2001/2002 and that he was now in a position to deal with the queries raised prior to submission for External Audit. The process of accounting for the financial year 2002/2003 would begin on a much more cost effective computerised accounts package than had been in recent use at a considerable saving to the village Community Chargepayers. A draft cash flow forecast was tabled for councillors suggesting that there might be a small element of budget flexibility available, although the much depleted Reserves gave rise to concerns. The Chairman confirmed that the need for an Interim Precept seems less likely should these draft figures be confirmed but that, although there may be enough money left to run the Council, there is little likelihood of finance for all but the smallest of capital projects. It was agreed that limited Grant Aid to

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organisations from the village might be a priority.

**Parish Clerk's office** The changing room at Blackbourne, which was annexed in 2001 for use as a Parish Clerk's office, will be empty and ready for re-fitting for its lawful use at the end of July. The new office on Station Road Industrial Estate was reported as working well, with a 9a.m.-5 p.m., 5-day week availability an asset to Councillors and Public alike. Administrative and purchasing changes were detailed which will ensure a more cost-effective operation overall.

**Standards Board for England** The meeting noted that one legacy of the unsettled nature of the recently departed Administration is a number of complaints against individual Councillors for minor procedural offences, all of which are going through the due process as highlighted by a letter from the Standards Board requiring certain documentation to be made available. It was also noted that the matter of the previous Council Chairman, Mr Ronald Curry, having on three counts been found guilty of being in breach of the Council's Code of Conduct in dealing with the matter of the Council's Planning Application for a dwelling on the Crown Mill footbridge site, is to be the subject of a hearing of the Adjudication Panel for England at Newmarket on 11<sup>th</sup> August when an appropriate sentence will be determined.

**Blackbourne** A closer working relationship between the Council and the Blackbourne Management Association (BMA), which manages the facilities at Blackbourne, is to be sought at a forthcoming meeting. In the interim, Councillors agreed to employ two recently recommended cleaners for the Hall at Blackbourne whose work was noted as being of a very high standard.

**Extension at Blackbourne** The Chairman outlined the situation as gleaned

from a meeting with the Architect regarding the lean-to extension to the main hall at Blackbourne. He suggested that neither the Builder nor the Architect were at fault for the various unhappy circumstances surrounding the project and that Council is bound by what had been set in train by the previous Administration. No contract had ever been signed and many problems had arisen from the fact that the work was instructed to proceed prior to the granting of Building Regulation Approvals. Although the build cost is fixed at £25,000, there is no provision for reinstatement of the access road to the kitchen, nor for the unforeseen problems raised by Transco realising that the building is sited over the main gas supply pipe and cannot, therefore, be used. Some economies have been effected by omitting the internal dividing wall and other elements of the proposed 'office & IT suite', but there is likely to be a substantial

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overrun on the original costing. Final costs to finish are being sought. Meanwhile no use has been suggested for the building beyond storage or a possible temporary bar area, although the latter would require further building works. In either case, extra costs will be incurred if the gas main has to be diverted.

**Churchyard grass** In response to a letter from the Volunteers, £80.00 is to be forwarded to the Friends of St John's in recognition of the work undertaken in fulfilling the Parish Council's obligation to keep the graveyard at the Church maintained. An increase in this annual sum is to be considered as part of next year's budget.

**Planning - 3 School Road** Councillors decided to make no objection to Planning Application 640/03 - Extension for the purpose of running a small catering business. The Application had been referred back to Mid Suffolk for further details as to the working hours involved, the exact nature of the operation, the means of delivering or selling on the product, the machinery involved and an assessment of staff numbers. It was agreed that the response from the Applicant adequately dealt with all queries so as to remove cause for concern.

**Affordable Housing** It was agreed that a response to the Mid Suffolk Draft Guidance document on Affordable Housing should be made in line with recommendations from the Parish Council's own Planning Committee. This includes;

- ensuring that Mid Suffolk are aware of the serious need for Affordable Homes in Elmswell
- supporting the ideal of mixing such homes in with general development
- pressing for such provision to be imposed on much smaller developments than those of 25 houses or more, as suggested

- supporting the increase of such provision from 15% to 30% of any future development
- the consideration of Affordable provision at the earliest stages of the planning process, and including the Parish Council
- pressing for other infrastructure benefits to flow from Development - roads, footpaths, school improvements etc to alleviate the pressures created by development on the community

It was agreed that the Clerk should attend the imminent Mid Suffolk Planning Referrals Committee meeting called to discuss some of these very issues with specific regard to Planning Application OL/167/02 made by O.C. Jewers & Sons Ltd for a further 24 houses to be served by the estate road which has recently been granted Permission for the servicing of 14 houses on an adjacent site and accessing the highway close to Shop Corner on The Street.

**Environment** Cllr Alan Hall, Chairman of the Environment Advisory Committee, tabled a lengthy report on two meetings held at sites around the village to discuss specific issues. Action is to be taken regarding the play areas at Crown Mill & Thedwastre Close, controlling vehicular access to the Blackbourne car park, improvements to management at the Cemetery, a dog bin to be installed near Lord's Bridge at Eastern Way, and various matters of tidying up and refurbishment on which Community Action is to be encouraged by Cllr Roy Finch.

**Allotments** In the light of the procedural shortcomings resulting from recent poor management, it was decided that allotment rents will not be collected this year as the cost of collection would exceed the nominal sums charged. At the request of allotment holders, the rental period is to run from 1<sup>st</sup> January in future beginning in 2004.

**Hedgerow mapping** Councillors unanimously supported a request that they should officially back the Greenprint Hedgerow Mapping project within the Parish to be undertaken by the Elmswell Community Woodland volunteers.

**Youth issues** The Community Action Advisory Committee is to take on board suggestions from a group in the village towards beginning the process of deciding how and where to provide for the long term needs of youngsters. Wide consultation will include the involvement of professionals who work in the field and will seek to draw on the experiences of other communities in the area.

**Broadband** The criteria have been nearly met in the campaign to provide Broadband Internet Access to the 01359 telephone area and Councillors agreed to support a final effort to reach the target of 500 registrations.

**Next Meeting** The date of the next Ordinary Meeting was agreed as 15<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 in the Blackbourne. The public, whose contribution to this meeting had been extremely constructive, are welcome and will be invited to speak.

**Peter Dow**  
Clerk to the Council

**The Parish Clerk's Office**  
Station Road Industrial Estate  
IP30 9HR

(behind the Fox, right next to the  
railway line)

**may be contacted on;**  
**244 134**

9.00am – 5.00pm weekdays.

The answerphone is monitored daily.

**email:**

**clerk@elmswellpc.freeserve.co.uk**

## **Parish Council**

### **- GRANT APPLICATIONS -**

The Council is seeking to identify a very limited budget for grant aid to village organisations who have made application over the past year.

Unfortunately, records of correspondence during this period are not good.

If your organisation has made such an application which you would still like to be considered,

please write a brief note to the  
Parish Clerk at  
The Clerk's Office, Station Road,  
IP30 9HR  
saying when the application was  
made.

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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.

## 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, 7.00pm, 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
- 18, 19 & 20 EADS Summer Production, 7.30pm, Wesley Methodist Hall
- 26 Macmillan Coffee Morning in St John's Church Room, 10.00am

## October

- 4 Barn Dance at the Blackbourne
- 9 History Group, St John's Church, 7.30pm, Colin Cooke, The Bells of St John's
- 16 Village Quiz
- 25 "Friends" Supper St John's Church Room, 7.30pm

## November

- 13 History Group, St John's Church, 7.30pm, Ashley Cooper, Three hundred years of countryside history
- 15 Autumn Fair (St John's Church) at the Blackbourne, 2.00pm
- 30 Musical - 'Rumours of Angels' - at the Blackbourne, 3.00pm

## December

- 11 History Group, St John's Church, 7.30pm, Johnny Stone, A history of hedgerows

## 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

## March 2004

- 11 History Group, St John's Church, 7.30pm, David Alderton, The industrial heritage of East Anglia

## April 2004

- 8 History Group, The Blackbourne, 8pm, Dr Catherine Johns FSA, Late Roman treasure from Suffolk

## May 2004

- 13 History Group, St John's Church, 7.30pm, Monica Place, Mary Tudor, French Queen, Duchess of Suffolk.

***Tell us more -  
Tel 241841***