

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



The ELMSWELL Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2003

..... Your Parish Matters

ALL FIRED UP FOR CHARITY – see page 2



Published by the Elmswell Amenities Association Reg. Charity No. 304879.
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PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.

This Month's "COMMENT"

comes from **Mike McNamara**
who becomes Rector of
St. John's Church next month

I have been given this opportunity to introduce myself to the Elmswell community prior to beginning my role as Rector of St John's on March 7th.

My home roots are in Buckinghamshire but I seem to have moved around a fair amount with studies in Durham and Cambridge and church work in Norwich, Bedford, East Africa, Bolton and Chelmsford. I met my wife (a Kiwi), whilst working as a missionary chaplain in Tanzania - she taught in our church school. We have a son, George, who is thirteen months and a real "explorer"!

Suffolk will be a new area for us and Elmswell a new home. Everyone we have met from St John's and elsewhere have really made us feel welcome. It's a great privilege to start this new phase of my ministry at St John's and I hope in the coming weeks and months to get to know the people I serve. I truly believe the Christian gospel to be the best news in the world. Jim Irwin, an astronaut on the Apollo 16 mission once said, "God walking on the earth is more important than man walking on the moon". It's fair to say that the events of 2,000 years ago have changed the face of history.

We are very much looking forward to living here in Elmswell and getting to know you.

Mike McNamara

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 12 March 2003.

Our Cover Picture Shows

On Christmas Eve three Elmswell fire fighters took a collection in Elmswell Co-op to raise money for charity. The magnificent total of £670.00 resulted with £335.00 going to St Nicholas' Hospice in Bury and £335.00 going to the Little Elms Playgroup in Elmswell.

The firemen would like to thank Sarah and Louise of Little Elms for their help on the day and a special thanks to Vivian, the manageress of the Co-op store and her staff for their help and kindness on the day. Without the help none of this would have been possible.

L F F Hawes, Elmswell Fire Station 01359 240506

The picture shows

Louise Stone, Sarah Jobbins and Brian Harvey in the Little Elms Portacabin building at the Primary School.

~~ Novetty Cakes! ~~

You create the idea - Let me create the cake!

Free Delivery within Elmswell

Jean Barker ~ 01359 241135

Cartoons ✓ Sports ✓ Animals ✓ Hobbies
Anything!...



The deadline for the next issue is 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday 12 March 2003. Copy to Gobblin's office on Station Road Industrial Estate or contact our Editors: Jean Barker 241135 or Peter Dow 241841.

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

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

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

Village Residents

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

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

One off ads:

¼ page £19 ½ page £24 Full page £36

Charitable, non-party political community groups based in Elmswell

¼ page £8 ½ page £11 Full page £16 Front Cover £22

Out of Village Advertisers

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

¼ page £17 per month ½ page £22 per month Full page £33 per month

One off ads:

¼ page £21 ½ page £26 Full page £39

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IN ADVANCE.
Cheques payable to:
ELMSWELL
AMENITIES
ASSOCIATION.**

**N.B.
Photographs £10 extra.
Classified Ads:
30 words maximum 25
cash with order.**

Around and About ...

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY, STOWMARKET

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

MASS TIMES:

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

Sundays

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

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

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

Holy Days

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

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

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

ELMSWELL F.C.

Club Sponsors: Mirror Group Newspapers.

Warm Up Top sponsors: Energizer.

First Aid Sponsors: Euro Food Machinery (Elmswell)

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

Summer School Sponsors: Wells Stitched Embroidery (Elmswell)

1st Team Sponsors: Mirror Group Newspapers

2nd Team Sponsors: Elmswell Fox

(A) Team Sponsors: Wilsons Transport (Elmswell)

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

1st Team Manager: D Scase. Assistant B Barter

2nd Team Manager: 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



Elmswell Toddlers

presents another -

Nearly New Sale

Need something for the little ones to wear?

Then come along on:-

Saturday 29th March

2 - 3.30 p.m.

at the Wesley Hall, School Road

A fantastic selection of good quality bargains in toys, books, nursery equipment, maternity wear and childrens clothes from birth to 11 plus including school uniform.

To sell at the sale, on a commission basis, please contact

Sarah Webber on 01359 242785.

Around and About cont'd., pg3

MONTHLY DRAW JANUARY

drawn by K Delf

No 66	H Mulley	£50
No 395	A Wells	£35
No 125	D Wallace	£25
No 246	J Redit	£15
No 269	N Thorpe	£15

Fixtures up to 15/03/03

First Team

01/03/03	St Edmunds 65	(Away)
15/03/03	Coddenham Country Club	(Away)

Reserves

01/03/03	BT Trimley (A)	(Home)
22/03/03	Parkside United	(Away)

Under 14's

02/03/03	Stowmarket Town (B)	(Home)
09/03/03	Bury Town (B)	(Away)
23/03/03	Framlingham	(Away)

Under 11's

23/03/03	Morton Hall (C)	(Away)
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Just in finishing, I would like to add how sad I am to see our (A) team having to withdraw from the league due to lack of support from players who would phone up as late as Saturday dinner time to say they could not play. This was a problem with the players right through the club, so from having 14 players on a Friday night for each time, on Saturday the (A) team would finish up with only 8 on Saturday. Having spent a lot of time over the years raising money for this club, it makes me ask myself is it worth the effort.

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

We apologise for the omission last month of the acknowledgement of the Sponsors of our 2nd team - it is, of course, The Elmswell Fox. Our apologies to John and Yvonne for failing to note their continuing generous support for the team.

Wetherden Under Fives



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

Open:

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

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

We accept nursery grants.

Contact:

Sandra Gidney 07971 827522 or
Caz Hewett 242733

HELPING HAND CLUB

The Club is taking its
winter break just now, and
the committee are having a meeting shortly
to arrange our first meeting of 2003, the
date of which will appear in the March
newsletter.

Look forward to seeing you all at the end
of March.

Best wishes.



Stan

CLASSIFIED ADS

DO YOU NEED A BABYSITTER? - I am reliable
and experienced. Call Claire on: home: 01359
241278, mobile: 07763382956.

Around and About cont'd., p25

LITTLE ELMS PRE-SCHOOL

A special thank you to everyone who made a kind donation to us on Christmas Eve at the Co-op. Many thanks to the Firemen and the staff at the Co-op who helped, we raised £35 and so did the Hospice. This will hopefully go towards a new shed for storing the outside toys.

Talking of sheds, we are very desperate for a new or nearly new shed - ideally six feet x eight feet. A good quality fridge that must be in good working order - maximum height 85cm (33 inches) and a lockable, four drawer filing cabinet. If anyone can help us with any of these items please contact us on 07762 234336.

The New Building Project Committee is now up and running (more about that later in the year) but to help us Sam Woolnough is running the 20-mile Bury Road Race. If you would like to sponsor her and help us, sponsor sheets are available at the portacabin, the Post Office or contact Sam herself.

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NVQ 2 & 3 in beauty therapy
Trained in Gatineau and OPI products

ELMSWELL W.I.

Two new members joined Elmswell W.I. at their February meeting.

Everyone had enjoyed the dinner at Stowmarket Golf Club and it was hoped to repeat the occasion next year.

Events for the following months were discussed and transport arranged, the County meeting, Agenda Conference, visits to the theatre and to Wicken Fen, members were also asked to knit items for Elmswell Pre-School for inclusion in their Nativity display in December.

Mrs Susan Bates told about the benefits of reflexology and gave Anne Hawes an Indian head massage, all so relaxing we almost went to sleep, we were soon refreshed with the wonderful "Valentine" theme refreshments. Jean Mason won the monthly competition with her old fashioned herbal remedy.

Next month, on the second Tuesday at 7.30pm at the Blackbourne, we look forward to hearing tales of a Diplomat.

Jeanne Crook Suffolk West
01359 241591 County Federation

ELMSWELL GARDENING CLUB

It was an eleventh hour reprieve that saved the Gardening Club from disbandment, and that was initially due to the efforts of Mr Maurice Emmerson agreeing to take on the Chairmanship, and it wasn't long and after a bit of cajoling that retiring Secretary Mr Rex Durham wanted to take on his old job again as long as he could get some help, then popped up Mrs Janet Sparrow who agreed to take minutes etc for Hon Sec., plus she has also taken on the task of organising the Annual Outing which, as I understand it, will still be on the first Saturday in August, which this year will be the 2nd August so get it in your diaries now, and then Mrs Joan Craven took on the Treasurer's job, and



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she said she would also assist Hon Sec with some of the other jobs that he has now found a bit too onerous. It was then the turn of Mrs Linda Abbott, a relative newcomer to the village, to offer her services, and she has taken on the task of running the Club's main fund raising event, the Open Gardens Day which will be on July 20th, another date for the diary, and if that wasn't enough, she is also the keeper of the keys, which involves making sure that the Library is unlocked on time for the rest of us to enjoy another wonderful year of gardening talks starting on the 20th February at 8.00pm in the Memorial Library when Mr Mark Williams of Unwin Seeds will talk on seed sowing and tips, and where Mrs Maureen Cruickshank, who is the new Head of Refreshments, will be all too pleased to make everybody a nice cup of tea. And the

final member of the committee is Mrs Jean Mason who agreed to carry on with the jobs and very good work that she had done for the Club for more years than she cares to remember, so at the risk of embarrassing her and myself I will leave it at that, but thank you Jean for adding some continuity to the whole thing.

The evening that had started in a very sombre mood, ended with great enthusiasm and community spirit to save and keep for the village a very friendly and prosperous Club that is open to the whole population of Elmswell, and I'm sure that I speak for not only myself, but for all past Officers in wishing the new Officers and Committee every success for the future.

ELMSWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

We are getting used to many alterations at the Chapel. In January we had a great united service with an impressive musical band playing on the 12th. Thank you for the many comments of praise for our efforts, and thanks to all those who made it such a successful night. I even got to learn 3 new chords - here's to many more joint events.

We are now used to our 10.30am starts on Sundays, it means I have to cook the Sunday Roast now however. We also welcomed Stephen amongst us and he has been great support already. If you would like to meet him he will be speaking on Feb 16th again, or he is in the village every Thursday night throughout Feb. Contact Tony if you would like to meet him.

The next project for the chapel (urgently required in this cold weather) is some indoor loos. Plans are afoot and grants are being looked into. If anyone knows anyone who knows anyone that could help us, please let us know. I have some Ipswich Town toilet roll to start us off with (no jokes please Doug).

We have our AGM in February where we

ROY FINCH PROMOTIONS

PRESENTS

**The Annual Carl Finch
Memorial Dance...**

The

**LEN 'N' McCARTNEY
EXPERIENCE**

PLUS

**SUPER BEE
DISCO**

26TH APRIL

at

**The Blackbourne
TICKETS £5.00**

Proceeds to Woolpit Health Centre

Tickets from Roy on 241344

Around and About cont'd., pg9

shall be voting in various volunteers (anyone who nods or moves) into positions within the church and any new projects for the year. With any luck I shall be voted back and will be able to carry on writing every month!!!! I know, you'd miss me if I didn't.

At the beginning of March on 3rd at 7.45pm the Ladies meet up for an evening entitled 'Bygones'. This is open to male/female/husbands/wives or anyone else who aren't sure who they are, so give this a look. I understand husbands are allowed as they are looking for some exhibits to valuate.

On Friday March 7th we welcome the new vicar into the village by joining him for his induction at 7pm at the Parish Church. We already have a connection as he knows and is good friends with Kevin who runs our CU Club. What a small world, he must know about me already

Family Disco

Saturday 15th March

6-9pm

The Blackbourne,
Elmswell

£5 Family Ticket

contact Alex 244692
or

Sandra 07971 827522

In aid of Wetherden
Under 5's Pre School

(that may be a bad thing).

Speaking of which our CU Club continues every Tuesday for fun, games and keep fit. I must get fit for the New Year - both Tony and I nearly passed out after joining in the first game of the New Year. It's great to see so many of you enjoying watching us suffer.

Keep smiling - Spring is on its way - the cricket season will soon be upon us, I could do with a laugh. (Sorry Doug, I must pick on someone else now - watch out other organisations, I shall be scanning the newsletter this month).

See you soon if not before.

Mark

LITTLE ELMS FUN FACTORY

By the time this Newsletter goes out we will have had our

February half-term opening. We are very grateful for all the parents who send their children to the scheme - but where are the rest of you? A Holiday Play Scheme was a much needed facility in Elmswell - but we know there are a lot more children out there. Come and join us, if your children like it - come again. If they don't, then please tell us why. If your children are not sure what is going on - bring them along to take a look.

Call Joy O'Doherty on 242259 to book your place or Debbie Brannick on 244276.

WOOLPIT STEAM

The Woolpit Steam Rally will be taking place once again at Warren Farm, Wetherden on Saturday May 31st and Sunday June 1st. Admission is £2.50 for adults on Saturday and £3.00 on Sunday, and £2.00 for children and OAP's both days. Car parking is free.

Attractions for 2003 will include a comprehensive display of veteran and vintage vehicles and machinery, working demonstrations, funfair, ring displays, craft and trade stalls and hot and cold refreshments.

Around and About conf'd., pg 11

The committee wish to thank everybody who contributed to the success of last years rally, which despite wet weather, raised over £5,000 for local charities and organisations.

For further information on this year's rally, please phone Gerald or David Seeley on 01359 241886 after 6.30pm.

2003 - 2004 KILN MEADOW NEST BOX SPONSORSHIP

As you know, nestbox sponsorship is due to be renewed at the end of March.

I would appreciate it if you could let me have the £3.00 if you would like to renew your nestbox, could you please drop the money into 53 Eastern Way or to Mary Feeney at Rose Cottage School Road.

If anyone is unable to get the money to me but would like to renew, please ring me on 241373 and I can arrange a convenient time to collect it.

If you have not either contacted me or dropped in the money by 1st April, I WILL ASSUME THAT YOU DO NOT WISH TO RENEW YOUR NEST BOX, this will then be offered again to the public.

Thanks to ALL for your support in the past and look forward to your support in the future.

Alan Thompson, 53 Eastern Way, Elmswell. 01359 241373.

METHODIST NEWS

All who are thirsty - come for a drink!
Coffee mornings will be held on alternate Thursdays at 10 - 11.30am. Tea, coffee and biscuits, friendly faces, bring and buy stall, and books available. A welcome awaits all. Dates: February 20th, March 6th, March 20th.

Exchange Club, Feb 18th 2.30pm, Suffolk Curiosities and March 18th when our first outing will be enjoyed.

Ladies Meeting Tuesdays - 2.45pm.

The speakers this month:

Feb 25th	Pastor Ron Low
Mar 4th	Captain Debbie Nield
Mar 11th	Mr Alan Newcome

Mar 25th Mrs Jessie Parker
Preachers appointed to lead Sunday worship at 10.45:

Feb 23rd	Mr Cyril Mowles
Mar 2nd	Revd Keith Horton
Mar 9th	Mr Alan Newcombe
Mar 16th	Mr Stephen Roe

Our ladies will take part in the Women's World Day of Prayer service at St John's Church on Friday 7th March at 2pm, and later that day at 7.30pm we shall be represented at the induction service of the new Rector Revd Michael McNamara, and very much look forward to working with him in our Fellowship of Churches.

SERVICES etc., at ST JOHN'S CHURCH

St John's Church

On 27 February in the Church at 7.30pm there will be a concert by the Tudor Rose Singers (Conductor Eileen Jones). The programme will feature works by Faure, Mozart, Stanford and Rutter; as well as instrumental, organ and vocal solos; admission is free but a retiring collection will be taken for Church funds.

In the afternoon on 7 March at 2.00pm the Annual Women's World Day of Prayer service will be held in St John's Church; the speaker will be Mrs Jill Mansell of Red Lodge and the theme for the service which has been arranged by the Christian women of Lebanon is 'Holy Spirit, Fill Us'. The International leaders of the Women's World Day of Prayer stress that the service is open to all men, women and children. Please come and enjoy an hour of fellowship together.

The induction of our new Rector, Revd Michael McNamara will take place in the Church on Friday 7 March at 7.30pm by the Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, Rt Revd Richard Lewis. Mike's first service at St John's will be on Sunday 9 March at 10.30am.

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If you would like to meet Mike and Jo and their baby George, this is an excellent opportunity - Parish Praise is an informal service and coffee is served afterwards.

The Friends of St John's Church

The Friends' Sausage Supper has become an annual event so popular it does not need to be advertised! £240 was raised for the fabric of the Church on 8 February when 38 of us gathered in the Church Room for a supper cooked by Committee Members.

SERVICES etc., at ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Thursday 27 February

7.30pm Concert in Church
Tudor Rose Singers

Sunday 2 March

9.30am Family Service with Music Group
10.30am Morning Prayer
11.30am Holy Communion

Friday 7 March

2pm Women's World Day of Prayer
7.30pm Induction of Revd Mike McNamara

Sunday 9 March

8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Parish Praise

Sunday 16 March

10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 23 March

10.30am Morning Prayer
11.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 30 March

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

ST JOHN'S CHURCH TOWER FLOODLIGHTING

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

JANUARY 2003 SPONSORSHIP NOT PREVIOUSLY ACKNOWLEDGED

29 in memory of Kayleigh Wallace on her Mummy's Birthday. XXX

FEBRUARY 2003 SPONSORSHIPS

4 in loving memory of Geoffrey Dalton
4 in memory of Kayleigh Wallace, on her Brother's 3rd Birthday
6 Geoff Sturgeon. Remembering our Grandad today. Love, Shaun & Shelly. XXX
9 Anon
10 Happy 82nd Birthday, Geoff Stiff
12 in loving memory of Ted Rookard's Birthday
13 in loving memory of Marjorie Ellen Manning
15 Lynne, on our Engagement. I love you, beautiful. Chris
16 in loving memory of Ron Last
19 Anon.

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

ELMSWELL COMMUNITY WOODLAND

Eleven members visited Lawshall Community Woods on February 8th 2003, hosted by Grenville Clark. The woodland was bought by the Lawshall Group about ten years ago from a local farmer.

It covers an area of about 10 acres. 4 Ha were fenced and gated with pedestrian access in the early years. Mixed species hedging was planted, with specimen trees again planted adjacent to provide some "home produced" timber products in the early years. The trees featured were Oak, Hornbeam, Cherry and Field Maple. The hedge comprises Hawthorn, Oak, Hazel, Spindle, Dogwood and Blackthorn, with some Pussy Willow, Goat Willow and Dogrose. This gives variety, interest and berries for wild life. The increase of birds has been noticed and recorded.

Around and About cont'd., pg 15

The wood area has been divided into sections of varying sizes in interesting, irregular shapes with wide, grassed walks (rides) meandering, but with some straight walks on the boundaries.

The individual areas were named with a solid post bearing the name in the approach to each section. These areas had a predominating species, with a few other specimens to create interest. The corners and vulnerable areas were treated to a variety of protective measures - dense planting of shrub or bush type species, and a live fence of Osier, planted so as to permit weaving into a substantial, decorative and protective fence to prevent walkers taking short cuts and damaging young and growing trees or shrubs.

A small area at the lower part of the originally purchased wood is left unplanted to become a wild flower meadow. Here the grass is cut and removed at least twice annually to reduce the fertility and thus encourage wild species to bloom. Some seats have been located at strategic places and allow visitors to view and enjoy the peace and tranquility.

The group also has a small wood about 3 miles from the site we visited. They have also recently purchased another 10 acres of arable land, adjoining the first 10 acres and separated from it by the wild flower meadow. The first work here has been the erecting of a fence. It is estimated that the planting of this 10 acres will span 10 years or more. The Primary School is an integral and very important aspect of the project. A small tree nursery 4m x 3m located in the School Grounds has produced hundreds of trees, all produced from seeds collected by the pupils and grown in their nursery until big enough to plant in the wood.

The Lawshall Group are fortunate to have a sizeable stable next door and are given the muck which is used to mulch the newly planted trees to retain moisture in dry weather and to

reduce weed growth in early years.

We were shown some hedge laying done by two members who also demonstrate to members wanting to learn.

Along the side of the original 10 acres of the woodland is a high old mixed hedge containing ash, oak and crab apple now dropping their seeds which are germinating to give natural regeneration. Some of these are to be planted in an area dedicated to natural generation.

The Sources of Lawshall Community Woodland Funding were detailed as

- 1) Lawshall Parish Council £300.00 per annum.
- 2) Forestry Commission, an annual grant to assist with fencing, planting and trimming around newly planted trees.
- 3) "Sponsor a Plot" whereby sponsor's names are displayed permanently on a board at the entry to the wood. There were hundreds of names (Parish population 800).
- 4) Donations.

The skills and crafts that can come out of a woodland project are truly considerable, as we gathered when walking around the wood;

- 1) Gathering seeds, growing trees and shrubs from them, taking and growing cuttings.
- 2) Planting and caring for sapling trees.
- 3) Hedge laying and trimming.
- 4) Producing stakes and posts.
- 5) Basket work with Osiers or Hazel.
- 6) Growing live fencing with Osiers or Hazel.
- 7) Growing live Bower with Osiers.
- 8) Growing long straight Hazel or Osier to produce withies for hedge laying and house thatching.
- 9) Growing long straight sticks to produce crooks and walking sticks.
- 10) Generating interest in wide aspects of Country Crafts with 'Hands on Experience' from an early age.

Around and About cont'd., pg 17

ELMSWELL TODDLERS



What a fantastic year we have all had!! Our social calendar has been packed with all the usual outdoor events: Teddy Bears' Picnic, Needham Lake picnic by train, day out at Banham Zoo, seasonal trips to Ocean Adventure/Playworld in Stowmarket, Family Bar-B-Q at Walnuttree Cottage, the Golden Jubilee Stall, and with a visit from Magic Mickey thrown in for good measure. The busy year was rounded off by an enchanting Christmas Party, with disco and Santa Claus, and a couple of meals out for the adults, including a Christmas Meal.

Our fundraising is characterised by our Autumn Fayre stall and our bi-annual Nearly New Sales - watch out for our next one coming up shortly on the 29th of March at the Wesley Hall. We have regular "Tempest Photos" shoots during half term weeks. Our funds have been boosted by a win at the Amenities Association Village Quiz, and generous donations from various organisations.

Our energies were mainly driven by the need to generate extra funds for the Wesley Hall garden, now completed and ready for use in Spring and are in the process of building a playhouse for the garden.

Our main preoccupation at present is running the petition to "re-instate a Health Visitor via a Baby Clinic" back in our expanding village. This invaluable service to our community disappeared several years ago from Manns Court, with an alternative provided at the Woolpit Health Centre. To bridge some of the gap in the loss of this service, Elmswell Toddlers regularly invite a Health Visitor to drop into our sessions to discuss matters with our members. Our research has shown there is significant demand to have the "baby clinic" back in Elmswell, as some parents and carers lack adequate

transport to Woolpit.

We are pleased to note that our petition is gathering momentum and pace, and you may see us around the village enlisting more supporters. If you are interested in adding extra weight to our campaign, then our petition lists are located at the Post Office, Library, Little Elms Playgroup, and our representatives can be found outside the Primary School and Nursery during pick-up times.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has kept up the true spirit of Elmswell Toddlers, and especially those dedicated Committee members who played their part. From running the tea rota, locking up, fundraising, managing the craft sessions, putting toys away, and to the Treasurer and Secretary. Here is the bottom line. Our Annual General Meeting is going to be held on Monday 3rd March at the Fox, at 8 pm. We are looking for a new Chairperson and Treasurer. We need new committee members to take on the roles and duties in order for our popular group to continue on the existing lines. We need volunteers. And we always welcome new members. Why not come along to our twice weekly sessions held at the Wesley Hall on Church road, to see what we get up to? We are a friendly group. If you are new to the village then this is a great place to start meeting people. Your babies and toddlers will be kept busy by our large range of toys, crafts and music sessions, whilst interacting with one another. Parents and carers can relax amidst the hustle and bustle, and enjoy a coffee or tea during the break. Juice and biscuits are provided for the little ones. All this for £1.00 per family. Your first visit is free!! We meet on Mondays 1.30 till 3.00 pm, and Wednesdays 10.00 am - 11.30 am at the Wesley Hall, School Road, rain or shine and throughout the school holidays.

Contact me on 242348 if you have any

Around and About cont'd., pg 18

queries or would like to volunteer for the new committee.

On Wednesday 5th March, Sandra Gidney, the energetic and charismatic Chair of Wetherden's Pre-School Playgroup, is coming for a "Storytime" session - everyone is welcome.

Our "Nearly New Sale" will be held on Saturday 29th March at 2pm - 3pm at the Wesley Hall. If you are a previous seller, or would like to sell baby/toddler/children's clothes, toys, maternity wear, please contact Sarah Webber on 01359 242786. Please note that sellers are to collect unsold items on the same day. Information will be provided.

Finally, my very best wishes to the new committee.

Anna McGowan, Chairperson

ELMSWELL CRICKET CLUB

(sponsored by Manvers Triumph)

I've yet to retire from village cricket (some say I gave up years ago), but at least I'm no longer Secretary of this Club.



"Won't you carry on. You know how much we need your organisation skills?" I thought people were so kind. Really appreciated my efforts. What I stupidly hadn't twigged was that these 'compliments' hid the fact that nobody else wanted the job. It wasn't that their word-processing skills couldn't eclipse my three words a minute with two fingers but that, how should I put it, they had a life. Anyway, the saviour has come in the form of Nigel Bailey - the Buzz Lightyear of ECC. He was elected,

would you believe, unanimously?! What's so amazing is - he's done it before! As Oscar Wilde might have put it, "To be Secretary of ECC once may be regarded as a misfortune; to be Secretary twice looks like carelessness." You do have to wonder what came over him - he does *look* sane. Anyway, he's now 'the man' (Tel: 01359 242690).

We also have a new Captain. Two wins out of 14 games last season is hardly a success (unless you're Captain of England) yet everyone wanted Nigel Greathead to stay...except Nigel himself. But we retain his services on the Club's Committee - assuming he can now remember when the meetings are being held. New skipper on the block is that old youngster, David 'Wink' Peachey. He, too, is a 'returner'. Is this wise? On the plus side, it means he can no longer field in the shade of The Blackbourne when it's hot, or hide there when it's raining - he'll have to be in the middle, leading his troops. On the downside, the last time he was Captain he 'did his knee in' and couldn't play for a year. Actually, maybe *that's* the plus side??

'The King' - no, not Elvis, Stanley - retains the role of Treasurer. His abacus is as razor-sharp as ever. Dean Rust moves from 'acting' to actual Fixture Secretary. Deano, who doesn't reside in the village, but in Rickinghall (line-dancing capital of the universe) has taken to the role like a duck to petrol - failing to submit our fixtures to the Suffolk League by the latter's deadline, thereby resulting in the Club incurring a fine. The future's bright, the future's pear-shaped! And continuing the

VANDALISM AT BLACKBOURNE

If you are one of the people who have been causing the recent damage at the hall or if you know someone who has; please be aware...the hall is no longer looked after by the Parish Council - you are not getting at the Council or at any individual councillors. The last spate of attacks cost the village - not the Council - £550. Money lost to improved facilities for the Summer School Football, the Fun Factory, a future skateboard park, an all-weather pitch ...

Around and About cont'd., pg20

fruity theme, Uncle Eric (Peachey) is retained on the Committee. Like his nephew, he doesn't get out much (especially being an Ipswich Town supporter) but as MC at race nights (see later), you can't touch him - even assuming you wanted to. And we have a newcomer - Nigel Burch. Yep, another Burch! How many relatives does Dick have? Just when you think you've met them all - another one pops up. Perhaps even Dick doesn't know? Finally, mention must be made of Graham Newman who resigned as Chairman; actually, maybe that should be re-signed? Aha, right second time - for now. Graham does a Euro job; or should that be sterling? Right second time again.

With fixtures for 2003 being finalised, fund-raising has started. Deano's organised a country 'n' western evening on March 8th, with live music and dancing. This is being held in the indoor arena that is Rickingham Village Hall - a bus will be laid on to take Elmswell folk to and from the event which starts at 8.00pm. Tickets are £4.00 each from the Post Office (see the nice man with the glasses -no, not you Bob). There's also a 'Race Night' on April 12th at The Blackbourne - a joint event with friends from the Bowls and Footballs Clubs (see the separate advert in this newsletter).

Finally, a word for Mark (Baptists). Are you running scared? You promised us a 'return' beetle drive yet still no published date! The lads here have (remarkably) been in training for weeks. They've been sharpening their 2HBs and, behind closed doors, have engaged in serious practice - shaking dice and then, in response to the numbers thrown, drawing a body, adding the wheels, and doors, followed by the headlights, antenna and radio. They're now so adept they're even colouring-in their Volkswagens. As they say in polite boxing circles, let's get it on. Alternatively, we could try that game the WI plays, as reported in the last issue. You know, the one where everyone throws

their key-rings in the middle of the room. While they awarded a prize to the owner of the most interesting key-ring (I must ask Brenda Tullett about the secret of her success), our new Secretary tells me the version he and Wink have played was somewhat different! Maybe the WI needs to revisit the rules? Perhaps we should join them, Mark?

Doug Reed (Tel: 241009)

ECC: CENTURY DRAW

January Draw

£15 S Over No 52

£10 P Dow No 14

£5 R Batten No 88

Please note that subscriptions are now due at £5.00 for the year. New entrants are especially welcome - please contact Graham Newman (Tel: 240846).

BLACKBOURNE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

The monthly meeting heard promising news from Nick Brooks whose cash flow forecast suggests that the Association will be solvent for the coming year as a result of the recent improved management of their affairs and the increase in lettings income which is largely due to the efforts of Lesley Reed. The threat of the dissolution of the Committee by the ruling group on the Parish Council having receded, several issues dependant on liaison with the Council seem nearer to resolution given the imminent possibility of a change in the Council's attitude following recent events. The Fun Factory holiday play scheme is set to continue during school holidays when it looks likely to build upon its initial success. The problems posed by the recently begun building project at the hall not having been discussed with the Association are to be addressed, if necessary, by direct liaison with the builders.

KILN MEADOW

NEW HOPE FOR OUR WILDLIFE SITE?

Last month's Newsletter reported Chairman Ronald Curry's announcement that Anglian Water had finally terminated its agreement with the Parish Council because the wildlife site has not been managed since May last year. The prognosis could not have been gloomier. The wildlife site was closed to both volunteers and the public - in effect, it had been lost to the village.

However, the volunteers have refused to give in, and the village has risen to the challenge! We have reopened discussions with Anglian Water and agreed with them a two-stage process for getting the project back on course. The first stage is for the volunteers to take out the insurance policy which they wanted all along - the specialist scheme provided by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers. That will allow the volunteers back on site to carry out essential maintenance work and start to tackle some of the damage caused by a year's neglect. The second stage involves contractual negotiations with another organisation willing to take on the project - and this will allow the whole site to be reopened to the public.

So we appealed to the village for help - and people have responded brilliantly! One local company immediately came forward to lend us the full amount for the insurance premium so we could get our application in straight away, followed by many village organisations and individuals who have all dipped into their pockets to help us pay it back. We are very grateful to everyone for their donations:-

David & Jean Barker
Bob Barter
Eric Buckmaster
Dick Burch
John Dodds
Peter Dow
Elmswell Cricket Club
Peter & Mary Feeney
Roy Finch
Gobblins Wholefoods
David & Ann Hollings
Graham Newman
Sheila & Bill Owens

John Petchey
Rota Rod
Carrol & Trevor Sadler
Alan & Janet Sparrow
Alan & Wendy Thompson
Mr & Mrs F Thompson
Alan Wells
Wells Stitched Embroidery
Brian & Sheila Wright
.....And, last but not least, one five-year-old lad who gave us his pocket money "because he enjoys his picnics at Kiln Meadow....."

Any further donations received will all go towards maintaining the site over the coming year - we have a lot of work to catch up on! If you would like to help, please contact Mary Feeney (241901), Alan Thompson (241373), or the Newsletter editor at Gobblins.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us during all the recent difficulties. We're hoping to get back on site in time for National Nestbox Week, towards the end of this month. We have maintained and monitored nestboxes at Kiln Meadow for six years now - with your help, we can make it seven years in a row.

EADS Succeeds! With another successful panto for the village

Hello boys and girls, mums and dads, panto season is now finished, Oh yes it is!! But don't worry we will be back next year to make you laugh (or cry) boo and cheer. The cast and crew have all had a wonderful time performing *Babes in the Wood* and we hope you all enjoyed the show as much as we enjoyed performing it. We have been overwhelmed by the number of people who came and watched and we send you all a big thank you. Without your support we could not put on such a show.

The whole cast is grateful beyond words for all the hard work put in by so many behind the scenes. There are too many people to say thank you individually but each one of you knows who you are. Whether it was making costumes, props, teas and coffees, looking after the glorious chorus parents who ferried the children to rehearsals and all the back stage crew. You all worked tirelessly and individually you are all responsible for making this panto run so smoothly.

Now that you have all seen the Sheriff of Nottingham and his two evil henchmen jailed, forever, you may feel like getting involved with EADS in some way. If so please remember to come along to the Wesley Hall, School Road on any Monday evening from 7.30pm onwards. You will all be made most welcome whatever your age or experience whether on stage or behind the scenes.

We are always on the lookout for props i.e. chairs, tables, desks, cupboards, wardrobes, old clothes, curtains, material for costumes and any left over paints. If you have something that you feel may be of use to us please contact a member of the committee or call our chairperson Sue Dey 01359 259062 or myself Jon Barner 01359 244002. We are looking especially for a photocopier and a laminator so if you or somewhere you work has one surplus to requirements we would be most grateful to hear from you. Although our funds are limited we could always arrange complimentary tickets to one of our productions.

We all look forward to seeing you again soon, please keep an eye out in the newsletter and around the village for details of future performances this year, hopefully with productions for both our junior and adult members.

Finally a request from the band of Merry Men. If any of you should see Robin Rainhatt aimlessly wandering the streets of Elmswell could you please take him to the Post Office and Stan will contact Maid Marian. Apparently he has put his glasses down but cannot see to find them!!!



LORD'S BRIDGE

At the far end of Eastern Way there is a brick bridge over the railway. But not for much longer. Over 3 weekends in March it will be demolished.

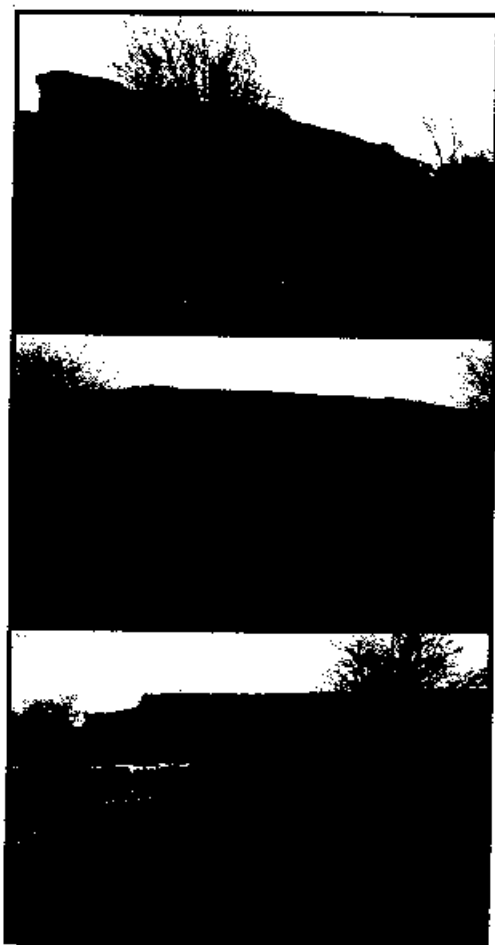
The bridge was built by the Eastern Union Railway Company which opened its line through Elmswell in 1846. The new railway line cut through 3 fields - White Tops, Rush Bottom and Prettyman's Pightle - belonging to Mr Walter Lord. His son, William, lived at Street Farm - still to be seen on Ashfield Road - with his wife Louisa and their young family. Walter himself, according to the census in 1841 was 55 year's old and lived in Hawk End Lane with his wife Mary, their 30 year old son James, Sarah, possibly James' wife, aged 20 and 8 month old Eliza, probably a grandchild.

Farmer Lord's fields then, were divided by the railway. A bridge was obviously needed over the railway. Hence Lord's Bridge. Unfortunately, fields were not the only thing to go when the Permanent Way was laid. Several properties in Hawk End Lane were bought and demolished, including Walter Lord's house.

The 1851 census shows Walter living somewhere near to what is now The Grange, farming 7 acres with the help of 1 labourer and a 17 year old servant, Patience Armstrong. Presumably he has left Street Farm to his son who is, by 1881, farming 166 acres at Street Farm employing 5 men and 1 boy. A significant member of the community, William served as a juror at local inquests and, for many years, on the Vestry Committee, the forerunner of the Parish Council. His own son, however, was less upstanding. Alfred Lord, aged just 16 in

1861, was imprisoned for 4 years for, *'wilfully and maliciously placing a piece of wood across and upon the railway, in the parish of Wetherden, with intent to obstruct, upset and injure the engine and carriages, and to endanger the lives of persons travelling on the said railway.'* He did it, he said, *'for a lark, to see how far the piece of wood would fly.'* The same lad received 2 year's hard labour in 1866 for stealing a lamb from Moses Wakeling of Ashfield.

Nevertheless, the Lord family has a monument at the east end of St John's churchyard. Their bridge, too is to not to be forgotten. Its demolition forms part of the upgrading of the line so as to allow the passage of larger freight containers from the Continent via Felixstowe. However, at the insistence of the current owner, farmer Herbert Godbold, who no longer lives in the village but retains a true feeling for the community, it is to be replaced with a metal footbridge. This will allow the informal (permissive) footpath which has used the bridge for many years to continue. Further, it will allow the new Parish Council in May to revive the scheme, sadly lapsed under the current administration which has paid no regard to footpaths. This entailed the dedication of a permanent Right of Way over the

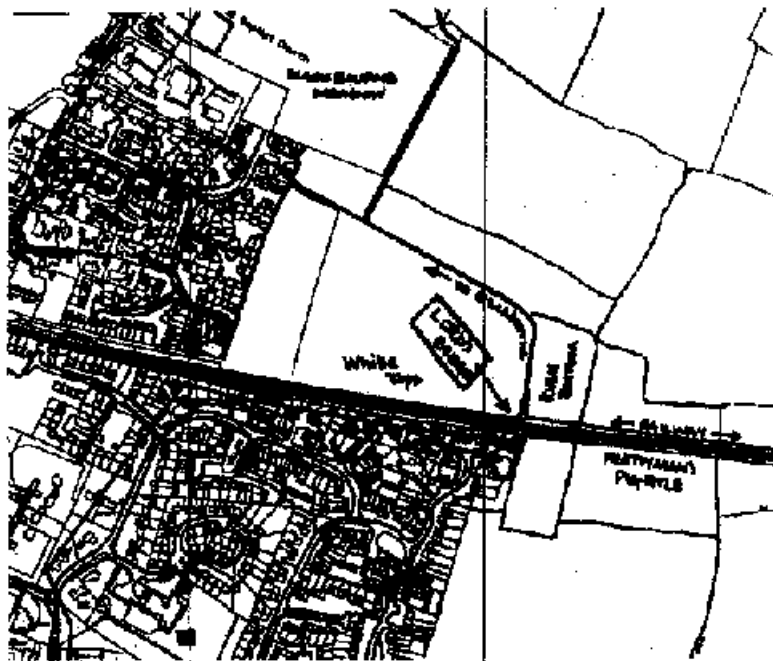


bridge to link in with the existing footbridge network leading to Blackbourne and beyond and allowing access from Eastern Way via a strip of land bought by the previous Parish Council for the purpose. Informal discussions have already indicated Network Rail's willingness to consider the scheme which enjoys the support and co-operation of the Ramblers' association and many local walkers.

Lord's Bridge will not, therefore be forgotten. However, one unique feature will go. Many who use the bridge comment on the peculiar indentations on certain of the stone blocks which form the coping at the top of the brickwork - as if worn away by constant rubbing. Which was, in fact, exactly what caused them. In the 1830's and 40's two well known village characters, Joe Meaking and 'Spud' Baker were frequenters of the bridge from which they could spot the various forms of game to which they were partial ... rabbit, pheasant etc. ... and also spy on any lurking gamekeeper or landowner who might take issue with the two gentlemen regarding ownership of their quarry. As they watched and waited they would sharpen their knives on the coping stones of the bridge ... week in and week out for many years. Hence the peculiar indentations, soon to disappear.

It is to be hoped that this is not the last new footbridge to be built in Elmswell in the near-to-medium future.

Thanks to the Millennium History Group (www.elmswell-history.org.uk) for background material and photographs, and to Dickie Burch (no website yet!). If you can add to it, please write in to the Newsletter and tell us more, or be in touch with the History Group via Norman Kerryon on 241569. The book, *Elmswell - A Marker for the Millennium*, charts the history of Elmswell, including the coming of the railway, and can be purchased from the Memorial Library or directly from Mo Dow, Village Recorder, on 240390.



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Once again your Newsletter, read by the Great & the Good, has prompted interest from its larger cousins of the Press. No lesser organ than The Times of London picked up on the Elmswell Parish Council's wacky Websites saga. Readers may recall that, having failed abysmally to establish an 'official' site (which still haunts them at <http://you.genie.co.uk/elmswell.pc/index.htm>) they allocated £2000 of our money - under circumstances which have

attracted the attention of the investigating officers at the Standards Board for England - towards the commercial production of an official 'official' site. Another white elephant, and an expensive one. This whilst Neil Thomson had quietly got on and created an excellent site (www.elmswell.org.uk) at no cost at all to the public purse.

THE TIMES SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15 2003

At Elmswell, Suffolk, a Byzantine struggle has been going on between two village sites. A local set up one for free, to discover that he is in competition with another organised by the parish council at a cost of £2,000. Now the Standards Board for England, which investigates allegations of council misconduct, has been called in to investigate. Food here for a positive banquet of gossip.

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PARISH COUNCIL

There are two areas of responsibility which, for a Parish Council, are sacrosanct. You must ensure public safety in the public places under your control and you must get the burials right.

In typical buccaneering fashion, the two leading lights of our elected elite recently produced major blunders in both departments and, stripped of the last vestige of credibility, have, pink-nosed and with long tails between their legs, left their badly holed piratical ship to sink.

It was decided by the Council some time ago that the reservation of cemetery plots should end. It created an administrative nightmare keeping track of single grave spaces which must not be used, often for many years. However, in the chaos that is the current Council, this rule was forgotten. Two plots were reserved adjacent to a recent internment. As is the way of these things a fresh plot was needed. The undertaker tried several times to talk to someone at the Council. Messages on the answerphone went unheeded and, as is the nature of his trade, the gravedigger could not wait. He dug; the proper formalities ensued without input from or reference to the 'listening' Council which has not, according to reports, monitored its answering machine for three weeks or more. The second burial was, most unfortunately, in a reserved plot and caused considerable upset. Not least to Cllr Clark who, it has been suggested, normally doesn't do 'nice,' or 'placatory' He it was who had to deal with an understandably sensitive situation. He doesn't, allegedly, do, 'sensitive,' either. Usually left to manipulate events from the unaccountable shadows of Vice Chairmanship, Cllr Clark was abandoned by Chairman Curry who normally acts as stooge and front man but was away on family matters. Reeling from the strain of dealing with the electorate face to face, warding off Press enquiries regarding the Council's abandonment of Kiln Meadow, Cllr Clark was made aware of more responsibility looming. Despite several answerphone messages, Mid Suffolk District Council and an extremely upset parent were seeking immediate closure of the kiddies' play area at Crown Mill and an explanation as to how it had remained open despite criticisms as to its safety by ROSPA as long ago as July. A little girl was badly hurt. The play equipment was at fault. The Council was entirely responsible and clearly had acted irresponsibly. It is rumoured that even now we are asked to believe from Cllr Curry's own lips that the problem stemmed from the fact that the Council is 'without a Clerk.'

The Parish Clerk resigned on 8th October last year. No attempt has been made in four months to fill the post. No decision has even been made as to how many hours the job needs - obviously more than were made available to the last incumbent - but the amount of money 'budgeted' suggests a 20 hour a week commitment. Which, on 16th October, Cllr Ronald Curry undertook to cover. A very few initiatives have been pursued in the interim; largely those immediately beneficial to the short, private and very personal agenda pursued by Cllrs Clark and Curry. Mid Suffolk have been harried and hounded regarding the slow progress of the planning application for a house on the footbridge site at Crown Mill which the Standards Board for England are still investigating. The construction of the new Clerk's office at Blackbourne has been authorised, although it is unclear as to who authorised it in the absence of anyone who was duly authorised to do so. Otherwise, Cllr Clark pursued several personal vendettas by letter, on Council notepaper, clearly speaking for and on behalf of the Council. This, too, has been referred to the Standards Board. And, the while, the day to day affairs of the village, the burials, the safety of play areas, was left to the Lord of Misrule.

Something had to give. All the agencies concerned - Mid Suffolk, the Suffolk Association of

Local Councils, Suffolk County Council - had hoped that the situation might be tolerated until the May election. 'Events' famously fracture such hopes, as here. Cllr Clark resigned in a welter of petulant notes informing all and sundry that his address was, 'no longer the Parish Council post box.' Personal reasons. Similarly, Cllr Curry. Chairman and Vice Chairman gone - just under 2 years after the village had voted for just such an outcome in the Parish Poll of No Confidence in their administration. More was to come. As if triggered by an invisible string, Cllr Marriott, Chairman of the Planning Committee - which seldom met and never mattered - and Cllr Talbot, his Vice Chairman, decided to quit their posts. With so much in common - the fact that they both long ago moved out of the village (it possibly makes for a more reasoned consideration of planning matters when you don't have to live with the result) and their previous careers in the Police force, it was not, perhaps, surprising that they should jointly draw a thin blue line under their commitment to working for the good of Elmswell.

No Clerk. No Chairman. No correspondence address. No telephone contact. No administration. To those who have followed the charade of the last few years, no surprise.

Cllr Doug Reed, recently battered by the procedural shenanigans of Cllrs Clark and Curry and their Council of Mass Destruction, nevertheless stepped in to end their misery. He organised an inspection of and the immediate closing down of the play area. In conjunction with SALC he organised the meeting posted around the village and elsewhere in this Newsletter for 26th February. If the previous Executive have truly slunk away there is hope for the establishment of a foundation of which the next Council can build. If they stay to snipe and to harry, if they refuse to pass over the documentation necessary for the revival of governance, if the vendettas continue, then we must wait 60 more days to begin to build. To, once again, be represented, rather than just managed.

Peter Dow

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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.

February

- 24 Soft Furnishing and Upholstery, 9.30 - 12 noon, Blackbourne
- 25 Keep Fit for the More Mature 10.30-11.30am, Blackbourne
- 26 Yoga, 10 am - 11.30 am, Blackbourne
- 27 Concert by Tudor Rose Singers in St John's Church, 7.30pm

March

- 3, 10, 17, 24 Soft Furnishing and Upholstery, 9.30 - 12 noon, Blackbourne
- 4, 11, 18, 25 Keep Fit for the More Mature 10.30-11.30am, Blackbourne
- 5, 12, 19, 26 Yoga, 10 - 11.30 am, Blackbourne
- 5 Elmswell Exchange WI at Wesley Hall. Speaker - Mr P Lewis, Mid Suffolk District Council - 'Recycling' 2pm
- 7 Womens World Day of Prayer - Service St John's Church, 2pm
- 8 8.00pm - Midnight. Country 'n' Western evening with live music from John C King (in aid of Elmswell Cricket Club) at Rickinghall Village Hall. Tickets £4.00 each from the Post Office (transport to/from the venue provided).

March continued

- 13 History Group, St John's Church Room, 7.30pm, Nick Sign, 'Emigration from East Anglia to Massachusetts.'
- 18 Visit to the Greene King Brewery
- 29 Elmswell Toddler Group Nearly New Sale, 2.00-3.30pm, Wesley Hall

April

- 1, 8 Keep Fit for the More Mature 10.30-11.30am, Blackbourne
- 2, 9 Yoga, 10 - 11.30 am, Blackbourne
- 12 7.25pm. Elmswell Sports Club presents a 'Race Night' at The Blackbourne Centre. Tickets £3.00 each (see the separate advert in this issue).

June

- 28 Methodist Strawberry Fayre

July

- 26-27 Fuchsia Festival, St John's Church

September

- 7 Autumn Fayre
- 12-13 Art Festival, St John's Church

October

- 16 Village Quiz

Tell us more - Tel 241841