

Elsenham News



**ELSENHAM FLOWER SHOW SOCIETY
SHOW SCHEDULE
FULL DETAILS IN THE CENTRE PAGES**



elsenhamnews@hotmail.co.uk

April 2024
75p where sold

Elsenham Village Regular Monthly or Quarterly Activities

Parish Council 1st **Monday** of month 7.45pm (excl. Bank Holidays) Memorial Hall
Natter Night 2nd **Monday** of month 7.30pm The Crown
Elsenham EAGLES 4th **Monday** of month 7.30 - 9pm The Crown
Henham & District Garden Soc. 1st **Tuesday** of month 2 for 2.30pm Memorial Hall
Community Choir 1st & 3rd **Tuesday** of month 7- 8.30pm Village Hall
Life Drawing 2nd and 4th **Tuesday** of month 7.30 - 9.30pm Village Hall
Village History Society 2nd **Wednesday** of month quarterly 7.45pm Memorial Hall
Women's Institute 3rd **Thursday** of month 7.45pm Memorial Hall
Church Lunch Club 2nd & 4th **Friday** of month 12.30pm Memorial Hall
Elsenham Farmers Market last **Saturday** of month 12.30 - 2.30pm Village Hall

April 2024 diary

Tues 2	Henham & District Garden Soc	Memorial Hall 2 for 2.30pm
Tues 2 & 16	Elsenham Community Choir	Village Hall 7pm
Mon 8	Parish Council Meeting	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Mon 8	Natter Night	The Crown 7.30pm
Tues 9 & 23	Life Drawing	Village Hall 7.30pm
Fri 12 & 26	Church Lunch Club	Memorial Hall 12.30pm
Sat 13	Tennis Club Quiz	Bowls & Social Club 7 for 7.30pm
Thurs 18	WI	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Sat 20	Bingo	Bowls & Social Club 7.30pm for 8pm
Sat 20	Bat Walk	See article pg33
Mon 22	Elsenham Eagles	The Crown 7.30pm
Mon 22	District Councillors' Surgery	Orwell House, Station Road Elsenham 6.30pm
Thurs 25	Annual Parish Meeting	Memorial Hall 8pm
Fri 26	Outdoor Greens Opening	Bowls & Social Club 6pm
Fri 26	ECA Quiz night	Memorial Hall 6.45 for 7.30pm
Sat 27	Elsenham Farmers Market	Village Hall 12.30 - 2.30pm



Mobile Library
Every third Thursday stopping at Glebe End

11.50 am to 12.20 pm

18 April

Elsenham Village Regular Weekly Activities

Day	Time	Activity	Location
Monday	9.30-10.30am	Zumba	Memorial Hall
	4-4.30pm	Rascals (3-4yrs)	Memorial Hall (term time)
	4.30-5.30pm	Rascals (5-7yrs)	Memorial Hall (term time)
	5.30-7pm	Rascals (8-12yrs)	Memorial Hall (term time)
	7-7.45pm	Boxercise	Village Hall
	7.30-8.30pm	Shape to the beat	Memorial Hall (not 1st Monday)
Tuesday	9.30-10.30am	Touchpoint Food Share	Bowls & Social Club
	9.30-11.30am	Village Café Coffee	Memorial Hall (not 5th Tuesday)
	4.45-5.45pm	Rainbows	Memorial Hall (term-time)
	5.15-6.15pm	Beavers Group 2	Ugley Village Hall
	6.30-7.45pm	Cubs	Ugley Village Hall
	6-7.30pm	Brownies	Memorial Hall (term-time)
	7.30-10.30pm	Tennis Club night	Tennis Courts
8pm	Fitness Yoga/Pilates	Memorial Hall	
Wednesday	9.45-11.30am	Tots & Toddlers	Memorial Hall (term-time)
	5.30-7.30pm	Slimming World	Memorial Hall
	7-8.45pm	Scouts	Ugley Village Hall
	7.30pm	Aerobics	Elsenham Village Hall
Thursday	8.45-2pm	Cakery & Barista	Memorial Hall (from 18 April)
	6-7.15pm	Cubs	Ugley Village Hall
	6.45-7.45pm	Jump Fit	Elsenham Village Hall
Friday	10-11am	Little Fishes	Memorial Hall (term-time)
Saturday	9am-12pm	Junior Football	Playing Field
	8.15am-1pm	Tart au Citroen	Playing Field
	8.45-9.30am	Little Kickers Mighty	Village Hall (term time)
	9.35-10.20am	Little Kickers Junior	Village Hall (term time)



We can still hardly believe that our Market has only been going since August last year, and boy has it grown!

We started off with 6 stalls and now there are 12-14 regular sellers, and sometimes more, especially for seasonal occasions.

We have tried really hard to ensure that we only sell consumable produce or allied products, and that everything is as local as possible; sold by small independent sellers.

In all honesty, we have never come across a group of such friendly and lovely folk as our stallholders, and seeing them (and our customers of course) is always an absolute pleasure.

So if you haven't been for a while, do pop by. We are open from 12.30-2.30pm. You will not be disappointed.

The products that are now regularly available are:- barista coffee & cakes, eggs, honey, fresh apple juice, chilli jam & ginger jelly, environmentally friendly cleaning products, pork & lamb, homemade dog treats, sourdough bread & focaccia, health & wellness drinks, fruit curds, artisan savoury bakes, macarons, chutneys, oils and preserves, cheeses and fabulous fish! We also have guest sellers, so keep an eye out for them.

The majority of the produce is homemade, so not only do you get these most amazing treats once a month, you are also supporting local businesses as well as coming together with our fabulous community!

The markets for the rest of the year are as follows:- 27th APRIL, 25th MAY, 29th JUNE, 27th JULY, 31st AUGUST, 28th SEPTEMBER, 26th OCTOBER, 30th NOVEMBER (all things festive & more!)

No charge for entry; just enjoy and immerse yourself in all the gorgeous produce!

We look forward to seeing you.

Best wishes from Elsenham Farmers Market Team

THE NEWS REPORT

From The Editors



With a new committee and renewed enthusiasm, the Elsenham Flower Show Society has a lot of events coming up in the next few months, culminating in their annual show and competition in August.

Their article and competition details can be found in the four page pull out at the centre of this month's edition.

This month sees another bumper month for the magazine, with so much happening in the village it is jammed packed with events for you to choose from. The regular activity list (page 3) is the tip of the iceberg. Read this month's issue and you'll be surprised at just how much you have to choose from.

Looking to the future, the Parish Council would like your thoughts on an outside gym. This could be a great facility but it's up to you to let them know if you think it's a good idea and would be beneficial - or not! See page 15.

Our environmental group - Elsenham Eagles - have gone batty - see page 33.

It's not just football that is available to our youngsters in Elsenham. The Cricket Club and the Tennis Club (page 49) welcome all ages as does the Bowls Club (page 47).

The weather is improving, so it's possibly time to start looking for new hobbies and interests. What better place to look than here in the pages of Elsenham News.

Read and enjoy!

Elsenham Village Fete is on Saturday June 22 on the Playing Field. If you are able to volunteer to help or would like to book your pitch please email

✉ elsenhamsummerfete@gmail.com

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ELSENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MARCH 2024

By Louise Johnson, Clerk. ✉ louise.epc@gmail.com ☎ 07456 791727



The present state of Hall Road is very dangerous. There are large potholes and sunken manhole covers. The road is narrow, especially on the bend near the bridge and vehicles, when trying to avoid the potholes, are having to swerve onto the other side of the road. These potholes have all been reported to Essex Highways and our Essex County Councillor Ray Gooding. Please take care and drive slowly when using this road.

Despite the Parish Council submitting objections to this application and Cllr. Mott speaking against it at the hearing, the outline planning application for 40 new dwellings on Robin Hood Road was approved by the Inspectorate.

The Parish Council are looking, once again, at the possibility of an outdoor gym on the playing field adjacent to the tennis courts. If you have any views on this, for or against, please let the council know.

Mr Matt Morland gave a short talk on the 1st Henham and Elsenham Scouts. The Scouts are for boys and girls aged 6-14. The Scouts hope to approach local organisations so they can become more involved with their local communities.

District Cllr. Lees said the waste bin collections are back on track. An investigation is ongoing with a final report due on 16 April 2024. The Scrutiny Committee are investigating why this happened, the cost, and how to stop anything like this happening again.

Talks are going ahead with the District Council and the Police for Elsenham to reinstate a PCSO in the village. It is hoped that Elsenham will part fund a PCSO with Stansted and Henham.

The Parish Council supports the campaign '20 is Plenty'. Many parishes in this area have now joined. Essex County Council voted against a blanket cover to reduce speeds to 20mph in all residential areas, but they repeatedly said they will consider requests on a case-by-case basis. It is hoped that our Essex County Councillor Ray Gooding will support the Parish Council in getting the 20mph speed limit in Elsenham.

The proposal for sand and gravel extraction in an area in Henham parish is positioned between the existing old Elsenham Quarry site and Pledgdon Green. Henham Parish Council has made a response objecting to the increase of heavy goods traffic on the road into Stansted. It was agreed that Elsenham Parish Council should also make a response citing the impact on Elsenham.

The next Parish Council meeting will be Monday 8 April, starting at 7.45pm in the Memorial Hall.



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DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

✉ CLlrDonald@uttlesford.gov.uk

☎ 07941 880279

✉ CLlrlees@uttlesford.gov.uk

☎ 07713 074656



We have commissioned Cross Party Operational Resilience Task and Finish Group to draw and apply learning from the recent waste collection situation to prevent recurrence. To take those lessons learned and apply them more broadly across the organisation in order to identify any points of structural weakness or risk and recommend proportionate mitigating measures. The final report will be available end of April.

Before the recent disruption in collections, we had decided to give readers some background detail about the refuse service. UDC's budget for its refuse service function is some £12.22m gross pa or £5.85m net pa, after recovery of fees etc. Currently, the district wide service is provided by 9 large and 1 smaller front line refuse vehicles, together with three spare/standby older vehicles. Our vehicles are equipped to receive two grades of material at one collection i.e. either the non-recycling (black lids) or recycling (green lids) in alternate weeks, plus food caddy contents every week.

A decision has been taken to improve substantially the service and increase the proposed budget for 2024/2025 to allow for the purchase of three additional refuse vehicles (each costs about £285,000) as well as the recruitment of additional loaders and driving personnel, thus increasing the number of rounds, leading to the improvement in the reliability and speed of completion. This will enable an improved (and necessary) service response. In the recent past, Essex County Council had closed the waste transfer station in Great Dunmow, where our vehicles previously emptied their loads. This has meant that the vehicles now have to travel to Braintree refuse centre and the longer transit distances (an extra 45 minutes each way) result in slower/less efficient completion of the existing rounds. Further, the 15% population growth experienced in the district over the past decade also has caused greater volumes for processing. All this means that greater resources are needed, a commitment to provide that has been made but had already been planned for.

Our district recycling performance is interesting and compared with the other 11 local authorities in Essex, we perform very well in regard to our "green" bin effective recycling rate where we come top of the District at 29%. Our black bin recycling rate is much lower however, where we stand in ninth position at 20%; the "top" authority recorded a rate by comparison of 33%. Food waste collected via the brown caddies shows the District performance being ranked in the middle of the peer group at 8.9%.

Our agreed budget has, as stated above, extra provision for more bin crews and lorries in the waste collection service, more money to tackle the climate crisis, ongoing support for vulnerable residents, more money for disabled facilities grants, and funding for some new social housing projects. Garden waste charges will not be increased this year and will be providing a better service to mitigate the issues previously.

Continued on pg25

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DEVELOPMENT DEVELOPMENTS

By *Graham Mott* ☎ 812516 ✉ motts@grahammott.plus.com



To the surprise of nobody at all, the outline application to build forty homes with access off Robin Hood Road was approved under the S62A Regulations. The developers have the usual three years to make a detailed application. Normally this follows as a matter of course - although the application on the same site with access off Rush Lane marked time for nearly three years before a detailed application was made, only to be overtaken by the substitute which has now been approved.

No contribution to the new Community Hall was included. The Inspector clearly failed to understand what it was all about, assuming that the request related to an existing hall, even though he was told both in writing and verbally that it's a new building. He also, at the request of the developers, struck out any provision for education or health. All the recent developments approved in the village, and also the application with access from Rush Lane, have included a contribution for education purposes; but the Inspector decided, extraordinarily enough, that 'it has not been demonstrated how the proposal in this case would give rise to direct impacts on the provision of primary school spaces'. Possibly the developers will implement a scheme whereby all the new residents enter into a solemn and binding undertaking not to have children; or perhaps the whole estate will practise home schooling. Again, they could be selected to ensure that they never get ill, or they will all be private patients and never call on the NHS. No information on these matters is available.

What is clear is that these developers have shown themselves to be the most miserly and miserable of all those who have been inflicted on the village (which is saying a great deal). Others have at least made a gesture towards suggesting that they have something to offer.

It's 'here we go again' time to the north of Bedwell Road, where Gladman have decided to demonstrate the truth of the old planning adage: 'Yes means yes; no means "try again later"'. Back in 2021, their application to build 220 homes between the motorway and the railway was refused at appeal, on the grounds of motorway noise. Gladman have now submitted a revised application, with an increase in the number to 240. They propose to 'mitigate' the noise by building three-storey houses towards the motorway. They have been influenced by the allowance of the appeal regarding 50 houses to the south of Bedwell Road, where the wheeze of building three-storey flats towards the motorway was allowed at appeal. The Gladman site is split between Ugley and Henham parishes, although the major impact would be on Elsenham. You can object to UDC, citing Reference UTT/24/0543/OP. The deadline is 4 April.

UDC must bear responsibility for this latest unwarranted assault on innocent farmland. The Local Plan is at such an early stage as to be irrelevant, and they failed to defend the application south of Bedwell Road at Appeal.

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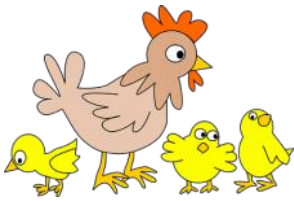


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As if that wasn't enough, you can also FEED A LAMB, HOLD A CHICK OR DUCKLING or CUDDLE A KID and there will even be a GOLDEN EGG HUNT too!!!

At the moment we are open every day until 4pm, so make sure you come and see us at any time, but particularly in the EASTER HOLIDAYS! Please do check our Facebook page for any updates.

There is no need to pre-book and entry is only £6 each, but please be aware we have no credit card facilities and ALWAYS WEAR YOUR WELLIES!!!!

If you have a child's birthday coming up, why not have your party with us at the farm? Perhaps you arrange school trips? Then come and have a chat with us, we love having the schoolchildren here and they love coming here for an informative and fun day out!

There is so much going on at our farm at the moment, we really hope to see you.



We **always** need help in so many ways, particularly when there is **so** much to do. So if you have a little time to spare, **please** get in touch, we would **love** to hear from you. Please contact ☎ 07747 787973 or take a look at our website 🌐 www.daisymaysfarm.org to find out more. Thank you so much.



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The Community Food Share is all about reducing food waste and is for everyone. We have fruit, vegetables, meat, baked items and more... and everything is absolutely FREE!

Where? Elsenham Bowls Club (off Leigh Drive)
When? Every Tuesday, 9.30am-10.30am

The produce has a short shelf life, so please only take what you will be able to use in the next few days.

If you would like to get involved and join our team of volunteers, please call 07572 114882 or email info@thetouchpoint.org

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ELSENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

By Louise Johnson, Clerk. ✉ louise.epc@gmail.com ☎ 07456 791727

Outdoor Gym—Your Voice Matters!

Do you want to keep fit but can't find the time to get to the nearest gym? Are the costs of the joining fee and monthly membership holding you back? Are you such an ad hoc gym user that the monthly membership isn't value for money? How would you feel if there was an outdoor gym in the village that could be used at a time to suit you?



Elsenham Parish Council are investigating whether we should install an outdoor gym on the playing field next to the tennis courts.

The area would have additional seating, litter bins and a table tennis table and will be covered by a security camera.

We want to hear from you! Please pop onto the Elsenham Parish Council Facebook page and complete the very short survey. Your opinion matters!!

From The Parish Registers

Burial of Ashes:

On 12 March 2024 in Elsenham Churchyard, Roger Stephen Southgate

Church Contact Telephone Numbers, E-Mail and Web-Site Addresses

Vicar	01279 850480 louis.wilson@heuchurch.co.uk	Rev. Louis Wilson
Church Office	01279 814285	Anna Hicks
Church e-mail	office@heuchurch.co.uk	
Church web-site	www.heuchurch.co.uk	

Enquiries about thanksgivings, baptisms, weddings and funerals should be made in the first instance to Anna Hicks at the Church Office 01279 814285.



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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

By Frances Lambert ✉ franceslambertnhw@btinternet.com



Tackling violence against woman and girls

Police officers have made nearly twenty arrests connected to domestic abuse investigations in just one day. In total nineteen arrests were made across the county on Wednesday March 6th, and they mark ten years since the inception of Clare's Law, which gives you an opportunity to find out information about a potentially abusive partner.

Assistant Chief Constable Rachel Nolan, Essex Police's lead for tackling violence against women and girls, said: "Around one in six offences in Essex have a domestic abuse link and the number of arrests made yesterday is not an outlier of what we're doing every day. It does highlight our commitment to tackling this issue. We've been working hard to protect and support victims, target offenders, and try to prevent domestic abuse taking place in the first place. Last year we reviewed our response to Clare's Law and, as a result, have made wholesale changes because we recognised that we weren't doing enough. We now have a twenty strong team dedicated to reviewing applications through Clare's Law and in the last six months we've made around 400 disclosures. That works out as two out of every three applications made.

We've innovated in this area too. Our award-winning Reflect campaign encourages perpetrators to recognise abusive behaviour and seek help from The Change Project. Since it was launched 700 people have made contact with them. We've changed the way we assess the most high-risk domestic abuse cases using academic research to help us better identify those people who pose the greatest danger so we can step in at an earlier stage and protect people.

We've also invested in specialist teams who investigate domestic abuse cases and support victims, manage the highest harm offenders, and prevent them from re-offending, and target high risk perpetrators or potential perpetrators to break their cycle of behaviour, as well as identifying opportunities to safeguard victims.

Last year we created our Rapid Video Response Team, who sit in our control room. We then take evidence when a domestic abuse case is called in, on video, to ensure we're capturing the best evidence as quickly as possible. Within its first six months, the team had taken more than 1,000 reports and we've had positive feedback from victims about this new way of working.

And our approach is having an impact. There were 4,500 fewer reports of domestic abuse in the last year and around 140 fewer repeat victims. One case and one victim is one too many, but we are making progress in this area and have worked hard to ensure we're better protecting people and keeping them safe."

If you have any information regarding incidents contact Essex Police on ☎ 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on ☎ 0800 555 111.

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ELSENHAM COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

By Frances Lambert

☎ 07771 728332 ✉ flambert@btinternet.com



Police Road Crime Report

The Police Road Crime Team are tackling criminality on our roads. They arrested nine in one night.

On Sunday March 3, the Police Road Crime Team officers led teams from across the force in a countywide effort to tackle road-related crime and road safety. Working together, the teams arrested nine people for a variety of offences relating to drugs, offensive weapons and dangerous driving.

The first two arrests came during a car stop in Chelmsford where the driver failed a drug wipe test at the side of the road and was arrested on suspicion of drug driving. Checks on his 41-year-old passenger showed he was wanted on recall to prison.

Arrests three and four came as a result of a vehicle being stopped in Upminster. Two arrests were made after officers discovered a large knife in the rear of the vehicle. Both the driver and passenger were arrested on suspicion of possession of an offensive weapon. The passenger was further arrested in connection with a shoplifting incident in another force's area earlier this year.

In another incident, three teenage boys were arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply drugs when their vehicle was stopped in Chadwell St Mary and officers found seventeen bags of cannabis, cash and scales.

The penultimate arrest was of a 20-year-old driver, who was arrested on suspicion of driving dangerously after he failed to stop for police. The car he was driving was on false plates. The ninth arrest was of a man wanted for breach of bail. Over the course of the evening, officers also recovered a stolen vehicle and seized four vehicles for no insurance.

The variety of arrests shows the scope of criminality on our roads, from issuing traffic offence reports to drivers who were driving in a poor or dangerous manner, to arresting those who use our roads to commit crime or evade arrest. The Road Crime Team and colleagues from Roads Policing and the Dog Unit continue to conduct high visibility patrols to identify and target those breaking the law.

The police continue this important work to tackle road-related crime, whether it is using vehicles to transport weapons and drugs, drive stolen and cloned vehicles or driving under the influence, so they can tackle serious violence and protect our communities from harm.



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ELSENHAM VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

By Mike Rea, Secretary ☎ 813634 ✉ evhs12@hotmail.co.uk
🌐 www.elsenham-history.co.uk



As I sit down to write this latest piece for the magazine, we are a week away from our March meeting. Chairman Ray Franklin will be presenting his “Potted History of Elsenham” so I thought a quick canter through the village origins might not be out of place.

Like so many other places in Britain, the first mention of Elsenham or Aelsenham as it was then recorded, was in the Domesday Book dating back to 1086. This referred to Merwen, a free woman who held the settlement as a Manor. Her tenure swiftly ended following the Norman invasion of 1066 when the first Lordship of the Manor was given to Baron Monfiquet (Robert Gernon). Thus began an unbroken line of Lords of the Manor until the last, Sir Henry Walter Gilbey, Baronet, died in 1922 and the Elsenham Hall Estate was broken up and sold. In the 11th century, Elsenham was in a densely wooded part of Essex and home to around a thousand swine. It should be noted that Alsa wood is one of the last remnants of this ancient woodland.

Although the Domesday book was the first written record of Elsenham, recently unearthed archaeological evidence shows that there was a settlement here many centuries before. Evidence of a possible prehistoric (iron-age) site was found to the west of Hall Road, by Stansted Brook, close to the remains of a high-end Roman Villa dating from the second century.

St Mary's, the church we know today, was built in 1110 on a slight rise overlooking the settlement, probably on the site of an older Saxon church. Of note is the south door lintel, composed of a slab which once adorned the grave of a Knight Templar; this dates from about 1230. In the window to the south of the chancel is a piece of ancient glass depicting the head of a leopard.

At some point in the 17th or early 18th century the village centre moved up to the Cross where we have the Crown Inn, built around 1760, and its surrounding cottages. Just down the road is Elsenham Place, a 16th century timber-framed house. Why the village moved is not known exactly but it may be that the prevalence of “The Black Death” around this time had something to do with it. Perhaps people wanted to move to higher ground and fresher air?

Growing up we all heard about the grand old Duke of York and his ten thousand men. But there was more to this man that we will discover when Richard Till returns with his talk “The Grand Old Duke of York And His Embarrassing Mistress” for what promises to be an entertaining evening.

Visitors are always welcome for a very modest two pounds but even better, membership costs just five pounds for a full year's meetings. See you there?

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ELSENHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

By Moyra Jackson ☎ 077655 000807

✉ elsenhamwi@gmail.com



As I am writing this on the 8th March and International Women's Day (IWD), I thought it would be worthwhile to have a look at the history behind this now established day in our calendar. We celebrate this every year to commemorate and honour women's accomplishments, raise awareness about gender disparities and discrimination as well as promote global support for women. The Socialist Party of America, in commemoration of the 15,000 women who protested in New York against harsh working conditions and lesser wages, introduced and first celebrated IWD in 1909. This is now a worldwide day of action. Over the past few years, a Million Women Rise March has been held in locations across the world, including one in London on the Saturday nearest IWD. This is a woman only march and rally against violence to women. The WI has been involved with this for a number of years and it always surprises the crowds to see hundreds of WI members bearing banners, joining with women's organisations and groups from all over the UK and marching through London. Elsenham members have joined them on many occasions.

I didn't march this year but will be spending the day at the University of Westminster with the National Federation of WIs who are hosting a 'No More Violence Against Women Day' with several speakers. It's not all about Jam and Jerusalem! And just in case any men reading this are feeling left out – International Men's Day is on November 19 every year. A date I for one will not forget, as it is also my birthday – make of that what you will!

We continue to be busy at Elsenham WI with all our sub-groups and events. Several of us visited Hatfield Broad Oak WI and had a lovely time. It is always interesting to see what other WIs do and what speakers they have.

This month our meeting has a good mix of history and the law, when we have a visit from Gary Powell where we will have the opportunity to act as the jury in a court case and see if we come to the same conclusion as the original jury after hearing the same evidence. The competition this month will be something beginning with the letter 'M'.

Coming along to Elsenham WI is a really good way to meet friends especially if you are new to Elsenham and while we are very proud to have a history of Jam and Jerusalem traditions, we are so much more than that, and always happy to dispel any stereotypes associated with the WI. Why not come along (or come back) – visitors and new members are always welcome, and you can join at any time throughout the year.

Details of our programme, events and activities can be found on Facebook, X and Instagram – search for Elsenham WI. Visitors are welcome to our monthly meetings. We meet at 7.45pm on the third Thursday in the month in the Memorial Hall.
Elsenham WI – There's a lot going on!

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU



Every year in June, our wonderful community comes together at Elsenham Village Fete. We want to ensure this fun tradition continues long into the future, but we need YOUR help. The event is entirely volunteer run, and without support, it simply cannot go ahead. Don't let our Fete be a thing of the past, come and get involved!

We are an enthusiastic, friendly team, and love working with new people. There are all sorts of jobs to be done, and ANY help you can offer in the run-up, or on the day will be truly invaluable. You won't be given any tasks that exceed your physical capability, and it doesn't matter if your time is limited; every little thing helps!

CONTACT:

elsenhamsummerfete@gmail.com
07708 709 634

Save the Date!



Olympic Adventure Holiday Club is coming soon!

When: **30 & 31 May 2024
(Thurs-Fri of half-term)**
Where: **Henham & Ugley School Hall (HUSCH)**
Time: **10:00 am to 2:00pm**
Ages: **Reception to Year 6**

Olympic games, songs, quizzes, competitions, jokes, craft and a book in the Bible called Acts. You must book a place.
Booking forms available soon.

For more information contact Church Office
01279 814285 / office@heuchurch.co.uk

District Councillor's report continued from pg9

This comes amidst a backdrop of challenging financial pressures for local councils which are facing diminishing sources of income from central government at the same time as increasing demand for and cost of service delivery alongside high inflation.

Uttlesford is not immune to these pressures and identified a need to find £7.4m in net savings by 2027/28. The Council is two years into a five-year change programme which will radically alter the way it operates over the coming years, and is looking at ways to maximise sustainable income streams and find service-level efficiencies. This programme is already contributing £2.1m of income and savings towards the target.

The balanced budget proposed for the next year financial year includes some increases to fees and charges, including a first rise in eight years in car park charges, as well as some use of financial reserves, as encouraged by central government. It is also proposing a 2.99% increase in Council Tax - the equivalent of an extra 10p per week for residents in a Band D property, bringing the amount charged to local residents by the District Council up to about £3.50 per week for the full range of services. This modest increase will allow vital services provided by the district council to continue whilst also helping to support vulnerable residents. The plans include provision for more than double the amount spent this year in the cost-of-living Council Tax discount scheme to households who may be under the most pressure. This is in addition to the most generous local Council Tax support scheme in Essex for vulnerable residents and those on a low income.

Wishing you all a happy peaceful Easter.

If any resident has any questions or issues to raise on this piece (or of course any other unrelated subject), we would be pleased to hear from them. Our surgery this month is Monday 22 April 2024 at Orwell House, Station Road, Elsenham.

Newport & District Flower Club

Our year got off to a flying start on February 20 with a demonstration from NAFAS floral demonstrator, Madeleine Bradley, who designed six wonderful arrangements on 'The Colours of India'.

We have two dates in April. Our AGM will be on April 17 with guest speaker from Chickney Flower Farm. April 27/28 we will be having a stall at this year's 'Crank Up' at Carver Barracks. Please come along and say hello.

We meet on the third Wednesday of the month (except January, August, & December) – 7.30pm at Ugley Village Hall, Cambridge Road, CM22 6HR. Visitors are always welcome.

ST MARY'S CHURCH ELSENHAM
Office@heuchurch.co.uk
Thought For The Month by *Louis Wilson*

I wonder if you know the story of the Shunammite woman in 2 Kings 4: 8-37? It takes place in the northern kingdom of Israel during the ministry of Elisha the prophet. In the village of Shunem, a well-to-do woman and her husband serve him regularly with food and accommodation.

What can be done for this woman? Elisha wonders.

His servant says: She has no son and her husband is old. The Shunammite woman was not looking for any payment for her services, but God knows what would be the perfect gift and a year later according to Elisha's promise, she gives birth to a precious child.

This gift points to another miraculous birth 700 years later – the Lord Jesus Christ, fully human and yet fully God.

But the woman's joy is short lived. The boy grew and one day he went out to his father in the fields saying: *My head! My head!* In alarm, his father had him carried to his mother's lap but by noon that day, he was dead. The Shunammite woman's grief is unimaginable.

However, she saddles a donkey and heads off to find Elisha the man of God. Perhaps, she reasoned, if Elisha's God could bring life from a barren womb, he could bring her son back from the dead. When she finds Elisha, she asks: *Did I ask you for a son, my Lord? Didn't I tell you, don't raise my hopes?*

Elisha goes to the boy and, in answer to his earnest prayers, the Lord gives life to the boy through Elisha's body. The boy

sneezed seven times and opened his eyes.

It is a story that points to one even greater than Elisha. Every time we read about God raising the dead, it is supposed to remind us of Easter. The prophet greater than Elisha is Jesus, who willingly gave his life for our sin and was then rose from the dead.

The Easter message is that because Jesus was a man, he could take in our place the punishment our sin deserves. And because he was God, death had no power over him.

Every time we read about God raising someone from the dead, like the Shunammite woman's son, it is supposed to remind us of Jesus' resurrection and power over death. God uses that same power to save all those who believe in Jesus. He is able to raise the dead as easily as you or I can rouse someone from sleep.

I am reminded of the words of Mark Ashton, Vicar of St. Andrew the Great Cambridge, who died on Easter Saturday 2010: *There is no question about the savagery of death. But, even as my condemnation is announced, my Redeemer will rise (Job 19.25), and Jesus will present incontrovertible evidence that my sentence has been fully carried out when he died in my place on the cross. It is my relationship with him that can take me through death and which is the only hope we have of eternal life. He alone is the destroyer of death.*

With very best wishes this Easter.

ELSENHAM FLOWER SHOW SOCIETY

SHOW SCHEDULE

Saturday 17 August 2024

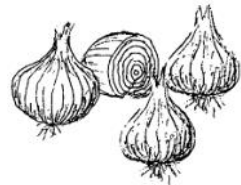
FLOWER Classes

1. Specimen Rose (*named if possible*) buds removed.
2. 3 Dahlia blooms of same type, Ball, Decorative or Cactus.
3. 5 Stems (*each one a different flower*)
4. Heads floating in a saucer of water.
5. Vase of foliage – 5 kinds
6. My best bloom
7. Flowering pot plant (*pot size 20cm*)
8. Foliage pot plant (*pot size 20cm*)
9. Succulent Cactus in container (*20cm container*)
10. Fuchsias – 6 flower heads.
11. EFSS Top Vase Class

VEGETABLE /FRUIT Classes

(All vegetables and fruit shall be of the same cultivar, unless otherwise specified)

12. Herbs – 1 Vase
13. 6 Hot/ chilli peppers (*with stalk attached*)
14. 4 Carrots (*with 7.5cm tops*)
15. 4 Potatoes
16. 6 Pods of Runner beans (*with some stalk attached*)
17. 6 Pods of French beans (*with some stalk attached*)
18. 4 Tomatoes, not Cherry (*ripe with stalk*)
19. 6 Cherry Tomatoes, (*ripe with stalk*) Not exceeding 3.5 cm diameter.
20. 1 Cucumber
21. 2 Courgettes. (*20cm long or 7.5 diameter*)
22. 3 Beetroots (*with 7.5cm tops*)
23. 2 Of same kind of vegetable not already listed.
24. 3 Bulbs of Garlic
25. Heaviest Marrow
26. Heaviest Onion
27. Heaviest Potato



28. Longest Runner Bean
29. Longest stick of Rhubarb
30. Plate of Fruit, one variety (*not already listed, all fruit with stalks on if possible*)
31. EFSS Top Tray Class

PRODUCE Classes

32. 1 Jar Marmalade
33. 1 Jar Strawberry Jam
34. 1 Jar Raspberry Jam
35. 1 Jar Stoned Fruit Jam
36. 1 Jar Lemon Curd
37. 1 Jar Chutney
38. 1 Jar of Preserve – not already listed.
39. Bottle of Home-made Liqueur (e.g. Sloe Gin)

BAKING Classes

40. Celebration Cake
41. Bread Pudding
42. Victoria Sponge
43. A Savoury Pasty
44. Strawberry Flan
45. *CHILDREN ONLY*: 3 Chocolate cornflake cakes



FLOWER ARRANGING Classes

All arrangements in the classes must use fresh flowers and foliage. Boards 60cm x 60cm will be available upon which arrangements must be displayed, with the exception of class 47.

For classes 48,49 and 50 arrangements must be displayed within the area of the board.

46. Miniature arrangement
47. Ruby Wedding
48. A Table Arrangement with a Candle
49. Fireworks

HANDICRAFT Classes

No exhibit will be accepted which has been exhibited at a previous show, or is more than 3 years old.

50. An article of Crochet
51. A knitted Caterpillar, (*pattern to be supplied*)
52. A hand knitted article

53. An article in Cross Stitch
54. A picture in any medium
55. A hand written Limerick – “There was a young woman from York
56. *CHILDREN ONLY*: A Lego Model

PHOTOGRAPHY Classes

Photographs should measure 15cm x 20cm and labelled, and be mounted on stiff card measuring no more than 18cm x 23cm. Entries must be original photographic images; no computer created pictures will be accepted.

57. Through an open door
58. English Weather
59. Sky at Night
60. Bluebells in the woods
61. *CHILDREN ONLY*. - My Pet

ELSENHAM FLOWER SHOW SOCIETY

- ✉ suewaite2003@yahoo.co.uk
- ✉ lynda.jolly@btinternet.com



January, February and March have flown by and the Committee is now busy sowing seeds for the EFSS Plant Sale in May. If you would like to grow some plants for us, vegetables or flowers, we would greatly appreciate them. Or, if you have grown too many for your own use, we would love them too. Please support the EFSS Plant Show as all proceeds from the Sale go to the costs of the Flower Show in August.

We will be contacting previous supporters of the Open Gardens Day this month, to ask if they would like to show their gardens again, but if you would like to show your garden, please contact either Sue Waite or Lynda Jolly on the email addresses at the top of this page. We would love some of our new residents to the village to show their gardens and different ideas. It does not matter how big or small your garden is, if you love it we are sure many other people will love it too, and it may inspire other people to start gardening.

Dates for your diary:

Plant Sale - Saturday 18th May, 10am, 2pm

Open Gardens - Sunday 30th June

Flower Show - Saturday 17th August

RULES OF THE SHOW

1. Competition is open to all living in the Parish of Elsenham. Outside exhibitors are at the discretion of the Committee.
2. **Staging from 9.00 a.m. to 10.45 a.m.** on the morning of the show.
3. Judging is from 11.00 a.m. (Public not admitted to this.)
4. Open to the public 3.00 p.m. Admission - £1- 00
Accompanied children are free.
5. Stewards will remove donated exhibits (see rules 7 and 13) from the show benches at the end of the show (approx. 4.00 p.m.) after which the presentation of awards will be made. Exhibits that may be available for sale will have a notice displayed thereon.
6. Entry money - Each exhibit charged at 50p. For 10 or more entries (total) equals £4-00.
7. Upon arrival, competitors will be given class cards, each one to accompany each article exhibited. Each competitor will be given an exhibitor's number. Vases, paper plates and saucers will be made available, **except for Class 11**. Exhibits to be retained by competitors will be marked by a coloured sticker on class cards.
8. All exhibits must be grown or made by the exhibitor (except for the Flower Arranging Classes).
9. Only one exhibit allowed in each Class per person. **Please note that only entries with one name per exhibit will be accepted, including Children's Classes.**
10. Children Only entries - Free
11. Children may enter main classes, but Rule 6 charges apply.
12. Certificates will be awarded to the first three placings in each Class.
13. **Each** exhibitor must complete an Entry Form. Entry Forms, together with appropriate fees, must be submitted to Lynda Jolly or Sue Waite by **Saturday, 10th August 2024. PLEASE NOTE: ANY EXHIBITS TO BE RETAINED MUST HAVE THE APPROPRIATE CLASS NUMBER CIRCLED ON SUBMISSION OF THE ENTRY FORM.**
14. Additional copies of the Entry Form can be obtained from Lynda Jolly or Sue Waite. Also, copies are available at Elsenham Post Office.
15. The Society will not accept responsibility for any damage caused to exhibits before, during or after the Show.
16. Points for each Class will be awarded as follows: 4 points for a 1st; 3 points for a 2nd; 2 points for a 3rd and 1 point for Highly Commended. The Parish Council Shield will be awarded to the exhibitor gaining most points overall.
17. The judge's decision is final. Awards/points may be withheld from any exhibit of insufficient merit.
18. Trophy winners are responsible for loss or damage to the Society's trophies whilst in their possession.
19. No points will be awarded for Class **61**. Children's classes will be scored separately.

Lynda Jolly (Secretary)
2 Purcell Close
Elsenham
07885 258771

Sue Waite (Treasurer)
1 Sant Road
Elsenham
07956 899326

CHURCH EVENTS IN OUR VILLAGES APRIL 2024

Church Services

Sunday 7th April

- 10:15** All Together All Age Service,
Elsenham Village Hall
18:00 Sunday@6, HUSCH*, Henham

Sunday 14th April

- 08:45** Prayer Book Holy Communion,
Elsenham Church
10:00 Morning Service, Ugley Church
10:15 Holy Communion,
Elsenham Village Hall
18:00 Sunday@6, HUSCH*, Henham

Sunday 21st April

- 08:45** Prayer Book Morning Prayer,
Elsenham Church
10:00 Prayer Book Holy Communion,
Ugley Church
10:15 Morning Service,
Elsenham Village Hall
18:00 Sunday@6, HUSCH*, Henham

Sunday 28th April

- 08:45** Prayer Book Morning Prayer,
Elsenham Church
10:00 Morning Service, Ugley Church
10:15 Morning Service,
Elsenham Village Hall
18:00 Sunday@6, HUSCH*, Henham

* HUSCH: Henham & Ugley School Hall

Save the Date!



Olympic Adventure Holiday Club is coming soon!

**30 & 31 May 2024 (May Half-Term)
Henham & Ugley School Hall
10:00 am to 2:00pm for YR to Y6**

Olympic games, songs, quizzes, competitions, jokes, craft and a book in the Bible called Acts.

Booking forms available soon.

Other Regular Events

SUNDAYS:

Elsenham & Henham Sunday Club/ Explorers (Reception-Y5)

Starts at EVH then on to Old Frank's, Elsenham, 10.15am
Sundays: 21st & 28th

Pathfinders (Y6-Y9)

HUSCH*, Henham 6.00pm - leave from service to meet in the Church Hall, Henham. Sundays: 21st & 28th

Crammin' (Y10-Y13)

HUSCH*, Henham 6.00pm - leave from service to meet at OSCA, Henham. Sundays: 21st & 28th

MID-WEEK AND SATURDAY:

Start the Week with Prayer

Church Hall, Henham 9.30am
Mondays: 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th

Seekers After School Bible Club (Y3-Y4) Old Frank's 3.20pm
Mondays: 22nd & 29th

Christian Play (Y1-Y2)

Rowan House, Elsenham 3.15pm
Tuesdays: 16th, 23rd & 30th

Little Fishes Pre-School Group
Church Hall, Henham 10.30am
Thursday: 18th & 25th

Little Fishes Pre-School Group

Elsenham Memorial Hall 10.00am
Fridays: 19th & 26th

Church Lunch Club

Elsenham Memorial Hall 12.30pm
Fridays: (2nd & 4th Friday of the month):
12th & 26th

Afternoon Tea

OSCA, Henham 2.00pm
Saturday: 20th

For information on all these events, please contact office@heuchurch.co.uk

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ELSENHAM EAGLES

Elsenham Action Group for Local Environmental Sustainability

✉ elsenhams.action@btinternet.com

BAT WALK!

Save the date! Saturday April 20

(with contingency for Saturday May 4)

We will be holding a community bat walk in April or early May. Come and enjoy watching and identifying the bats as they emerge at dusk.



This will be led by Rachel Geller who is an ecologist and a member of EAGLES. She will help us to identify the bats using bat detectors.

This event is weather-dependent; therefore, it is set for **Saturday April 20** but with contingency for **Saturday May 4** if weather conditions are not suitable for the bats on April 20. Updates and any further information will be posted on our Facebook page: Elsenham Eagles. Please check our Facebook page two days before the event or email us at the address above with any questions you may have.

We will meet in the church car park at 7.45pm on 20 April or 8pm on 4 May which will be just before dusk. Please bring warm clothing, appropriate footwear and a torch. This is a fund raising event so please bring £2 per person, 50p for children. How exciting! We really look forward to seeing you.

ST MARY'S FABRIC FUND ELSENHAM

Registered Charity No 1052884

By Stewart Pimblett, Chairman 🙏 812359



Hopefully by the time you read this article the weather will have improved, and it will feel more like spring. What a long, dull and wet winter it has been. We will all feel a lot happier when we are busy and getting on with some outdoor activities with some sunshine.

Our AGM and committee meeting was held on March 19th and I would like to report on a very successful financial year for the Fabric Fund and the two main events that we held at the Church were very well attended. Many people were generous in supporting us with their kind donations. Membership to St. Mary's Fabric Fund remains at £5.00 so why not consider becoming a member and help your local church.

Our next big event at St. Mary's church will be on the weekend of 1st and 2nd June when we will be holding an exhibition and display of the late Gordon Barker's photographs and postcards. A rare opportunity to learn and see something of Elsenham's past. There will also be a refreshment tent, so make a note in your diary now as we will not get another chance to see this wonderful collection. More on this in next month's magazine and other events we are proposing to hold this year.



The Hair Loss Clinic
North Hall Road, Ugley
07957 166436
www.hairlosslaserclinic.co.uk

The Hair Loss Clinic is a company set up to provide information, advice, support and above all solutions for people experiencing hair loss. Not only do we provide realistic and workable solutions to those suffering from hair loss but we are also specialists in after and on-going care for hair loss, giving you the very best support. We can help you through your journey from hair loss through to aftercare if your hair grows back. We provide a personalised service and will recommend the course of treatment or other solutions most appropriate to you.

We provide information, support and advice about your hair loss and identify the factors you will need to consider when choosing which solution is suitable for you.

We provide guidance on cutting and styling of your wig or integration piece and advice on what to do when your hair starts growing back.

Monthly Trichologist clinics are held with Eva Proudman, MIT IAT. Eva is widely known both in the UK and Internationally for her work with hair loss. She has appeared on TV many times and supports many major hair companies with her research into hair loss. All consultations are private and last for between 45 minutes and 1 hour; during this time all relevant areas of health, diet, lifestyle, family history, hair care regime will be discussed along with an in depth examination, including the use of a specialist scalp camera to arrive at a diagnosis and treatment plan.

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NEWS FROM STANSTED FIRE STATION

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We hope everyone has been keeping safe over the last month. The team at the station have been busy training to respond, and responding to, emergencies.

Early this month the team took part in various training drills, including a large-scale breathing apparatus training session organised by our Crew Manager, Billy Parr.

After consultation with Essex County Council, Billy managed to get access to a vacant building in Stansted which would allow the team to practise its response to large scale incidents. Billy commented: "It is a good venue in which to undertake training as it is quite large, being a former school, and the layout is unfamiliar to the crews. During the exercise using breathing apparatus we were able to test our skills and great effort was shown by the crews. This is a good example of Essex County fire and rescue service working with other organisations for the benefit of Essex residents and businesses."

This month has also seen the station undergo a refit with the installation of a new and improved bay floor; this was after a lot of wear and tear was highlighted to the service in one of our quarterly inspections. The service, along with its partners, started the 3-week refit at the end of February and work is going very well. The station personnel have continued to maintain the operational effectiveness of all three machines around the works and have all worked extremely hard to manage this change.

Lastly if any other groups or schools would like to visit feel free to get in touch. If you're interested in joining the team, please pop down on a Thursday training night.



Stansted crew in action on a training night.



Stansted Crew in Action on a BA Exercise



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ELSENHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

By Sue Waite

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ECA Race Night

Wasn't it a fabulous success. We had seventy people attending and from the comments afterwards everyone had a really good evening and are wanting more, so, maybe in six months or so, we will organise another Race Night.

The evening raised over £1200 which will go towards building our outside toilets and contribute to the running of the village magazine.

We had massive support from the community. Eight organisations sponsored our races and I would like to give them all another mention and a big thank you - Matt and Kirstie from Right Conveyancing, Karen from the Post Office, Jo at Stansted's Golf World, Dave Verlander, Elsenham Village Café, Too Many Bricks, The Executive Choice Chauffeur Company and Perkins.

Also, to those who donated our raffle prizes - Karen at the Post Office, Jo at Golf World, Moyra Jackson and Lynsey Jackson, and Margaret Shaw, thank you so much.

Thank you, Simon Chapman from 'goraceneights', for providing us with such great entertainment. Thank you also to members of the ECA committee for all your hard work on the night with a little help from Gill and Chris.

But our biggest thanks go to you all for attending and helping us raise so much money.

Come and Support Our Next Event

We will be hosting a **QUIZ NIGHT** on Friday, 26th April in the Memorial Hall – doors open at 6.45 for a 7.30 start. £10 per person – **tables of up to eight**. We will be providing a delicious Ploughman's with lovely nibbles on the tables. There will also be a bar – cash only please.

Get in touch with Sue at ✉ suewaite2003@yahoo.co.uk or ☎ 07956 899326 to reserve your table.

GARDEN HINT

By Sue Johnson

Lift up the flat leaves of plantain, then use an old, long-bladed knife to cut down into the soil around the tap root and remove it without breaking it.

Don't let mats of plantains form in your lawn as they'll leave bare patches when removed.

Keeping warm this winter

If you are worried about paying your bills and keeping warm this winter, energy specialists at Uttlesford Citizens Advice can help with:

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NATURAL OUTLOOK

By Heather Salvidge ☎ 814153



April has been known to be a dry month and to vary between hard frosts, icy winds and sunny days up to the 20s. This year has been so wet that we shall be living with MUD for a while until Snakes Lane has dried up and the Grove Hill 'waterfall' stops flowing. But there will be more daylight.

Birds are into the breeding season, indeed some may already have started by getting very territorial. In our front garden the dominant male dunnocks are doing much wing flicking and waving to see off others and the "3 blackbird" males interact. It started when no. 2 from 25 came across for breakfast and no.1 from no.18's garden erupted and saw him off. He did the same when no. 3 from up the road came and No.2 saw him off too. Last month I watched two blue tits having a furious tussle on the grass.

You then see some birds, e.g. a magpie with a twig in its beak flying into the holly by the surgery and sparrows finishing nests by pulling off bits of the leaves of silvery 'lamb's ears' as lining. Next you might see discarded eggs. Some examples are: blackbirds' are medium sized, greenish blue and covered in speckles of tan or reddish brown; song thrushes' are a paler greenish blue with blotches and spots of black or olive green; starlings' are very pale blue fading to white but wood pigeons' are like small hens' eggs and glossy white.

During springtime, birdsong is rife, especially in the early morning. Here it dies down during the morning "rush hour" for traffic and people, with or without dogs, and starts up again when it gets quieter. Songs from blackbirds, song thrushes, robins, dunnocks, great tits, chaffinches and in woodlands all of these plus chiffchaffs, bullfinches, black caps and jackdaws. If you do leave your house and go somewhere to hear birdsong perhaps Hatfield Forest or some local Essex Wildlife Trust reserves, go prepared to encounter mud and /or puddles and stick to the existing paths or trails.

The nearest E.W.T. reserves are Aubrey Buxton, Turner's Spring at Burton End, West Wood. which goes back to the Knights' Hospitalers' halfway between Thaxted and Great Sampford, and Shadwell Wood on the outskirts of Ashdon. In these you might find all or some of these early purple orchids, often amongst the earliest bluebells or a bit later some common spotted orchids, oxlips, wood anemones, bugle and common celandines. On the roadside verges the whites start to bloom; these are garlic mustard, cow parsley, white dead nettle and greater stitchwort.. If you are thinking of going to Hatfield Forest then it's best to ring 01279 870678 to find out what their parking arrangements will be, not just over Easter but for April as well.

When using our lovely part of Alsa Wood it's good to stick to the public footpaths both through the wood and along the south side and if you do use the informal ones, please keep to them so as to preserve the wildflowers. Thank you.

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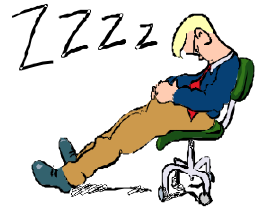
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Craig Pike





Continuing with my overview from last month of what is and what was there before, we go down Robin Hood Road. Past the Post Office once stood the Village Bakery on the left. I can still remember the smell of bread being baked and being given dough baked on a stick. Opposite the bakers we now find Saunders Close named after the baker. Once the site of "Willis Toys," then "Bero Flour Depot," which morphed into a "Light Machine Factory". The bakery would turn into "Design and Décor", a soft furnishings business.

Just a few yards farther down just one of the many sites for Elsenham Surgery, its fourth location until it went to "The Daisy", in Station Road. The "Hood," has become a residential property. We must not forget the late Jim Harling who repaired boots and shoes and lived in Mill Close.

We now make our way up Stansted Road. In a house at the top of the road you could buy fish and chips from a resident's home. Almost opposite your bicycle repairs could be made by Bob Hollingsworth. Go a little farther towards Stansted and where once stood "Bardox" you could find a café and shop. Opposite there you can now hire a marquee.

So, there you have it, not a totally comprehensive list from within our village, I am sure that I may have omitted many. We have lost one of our public houses but there is the Bowls Club for playing, being a Social Member, or be signed in by a member. There is access to some functions and private parties. There is now ONE shop where once we had FOUR. I am aware that there is a café in the old "Station Shop" and many work from home. But as the village population has greatly increased the retail outlets have failed to keep pace. With the ever-increasing price of petrol to shop outside of Elsenham it just does not make sense.

Ray
Franklin

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For 300 years, the Royal Gunpowder Mills at Waltham Abbey developed and manufactured explosives for muskets, rockets and wartime munitions. Today, it is a museum. Richard Thomas, a site guide, spoke at our February meeting, looking back through the centuries to China, and the discovery of what we now call gunpowder. It was fascinating, and a trip to the Waltham Abbey Museum, now looks on the cards.

In February our Gardening Group enjoyed a talk by Dave Willett, on Great Gardens and Gardeners. From the history of cultivated gardens such as the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, through the development of the medieval plot essential for food production, to renaissance gardens like Versailles, the landscape movement and Lancelot Brown, and the work of Arts and Crafts designers such as Gertrude Jekyll, much of which resulted in gardens we can still enjoy today.

As I write, we are looking forward to hearing from David Morson. Last year he talked about the historical relationship between Russia and Ukraine. At our first Saturday seminar in 2024, he will take on another of the world's most sensitive and tragic flashpoints – 'The Arab Israel Question: A History of Conflict'. David with degrees in history, politics, sociology and religious studies, will provide the opportunity to discuss and understand the historical background, from biblical times onwards, showing the established facts, the complexities, the dilemmas and the difficulties that have created probably the most intractable and long-lasting conflict in the world today.

And then on to something very different! Graham and Mary Brace spend their retirement travelling to photograph wildlife and conservation. In April, at our General Meeting, they will share their experiences and the amazing photographs they take of 'Wildlife in Brazil'.

That's the u3a: always something different, sometimes challenging, often heartwarming; you learn a lot and laugh a lot – do join us!

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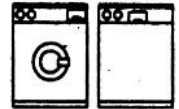
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THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

By Tricia Moxey, Trustee

📧 www.hundredparishes.org.uk



The Society's logo is a woodcut by the late Eric Ravilious.

Eric Ravilious and Edward Bawden were both Royal College of Art students when, on a cycling holiday, they happened upon Great Bardfield in Essex. There, they rented Brick House, starting a fascinating period for the village. Over the next two decades numerous artists came to live there; they became known as The Bardfield Artists.

In 1932 Bawden married fellow student Charlotte Epton, a potter, and his father bought Brick House as a wedding present for them. In the same year Ravilious married Tirzah Garwood, an artist and engraver, and they lodged for a while with the Bawdens at Brick House. Bawden's work can be seen today on three Victoria Line stations: Victoria, Tottenham Hale and Highbury & Islington, for which he designed the logos.

Another artist, John Aldridge, bought Place House in Great Bardfield in 1933 and soon became friends with Bawden. They produced Bardfield Wallpaper together for the company Cole & Sons to distribute.

In 1952, painter Stanley Clifford-Smith moved into Bucks House and later to the Old Bakehouse. He was very involved in Open House exhibitions that were held in the 1950s when the public could view and buy art in the studios and homes where it had been created.

Marianne Straub, a textile designer, moved to Great Bardfield in 1953, buying Trinity Cottage. She was the senior designer for Warner & Sons of Braintree.

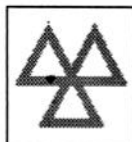
Other Bardfield Artists included Kenneth Rowntree, Michael Rothenstein and Walter Hoyle.

A good selection of the Bardfield Artists' work can be seen at Fry Art Gallery in Saffron Walden. It reopens on April 7th; see <https://fryartgallery.org> for opening hours. In Great Bardfield, books and other information about the artists can be purchased at the new premises of Between The Lines bookshop.

The Hundred Parishes is 450 square miles of northwest Essex, northeast Hertfordshire and southern Cambridgeshire that is largely unspoilt and is richly endowed with many fine examples of agricultural and built heritage. The area has shared a common history which shaped and preserved its distinctive landscape of small and medium-sized farms linked by winding lanes and ancient rights of way to hamlets, villages and then to small market towns. For more information visit www.hundredparishes.org.uk.

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ELSENHAM BOWLS AND SOCIAL CLUB

By Trevor Hackett

 07445 437437



By the time you read this we will have held our Quiz Night on 16 March and enjoyed Paul Sharp "Playing the Beatles" on 30 March.

The next music night will be an evening with Gary Benjafield as "Neil Diamond" on 25 May. Once again, tickets will be just £6 each, including nibbles. Make sure you do not miss this event. Gary Benjafield comes with an excellent reputation and is still performing in West End shows.

We continue our increasingly popular Saturday night Bingo session, which we hold monthly from April to September. The bingo bonus is now up to £100, so come along and get your chance to win. Note the new start time of eyes down at 8 pm.

The crib league continues on Tuesday evenings, after hosting the crib singles competition and a crib drive. Our darts players continue to enjoy their games on Wednesday evenings.

Short mat bowling is on Monday afternoons in the clubhouse, starting at 2 pm. All members are welcome to attend, and we can lend you bowls if you do not have your own.

The green opens at 6pm on Friday 26 April for our first "Roll Up". The following day we have our annual Two Wood Day to provide much-needed practice at reaching the end of the green after seven months of playing indoors on a carpet.

On 4 May we have the President v Captain internal match, and the Kings Arms Cup will be played on Monday 6 May.

Our open days this year are on 26 May and 22 June. Feel free to come along and try bowls.

Calendar for April:

April 13 – Tennis Club Quiz Night 7.30 for 8pm

April 20 – Bingo 8pm

April 26 – Opening of the Green 6 pm

April 27– Two Wood Day 10.30 am

If you wish to join as a social or bowling member then either call in at the bar from 7 pm weekdays (except Mondays) or contact the secretary, Therese Clear, on 07759 158859.

I hope to see you in the club house at one of our events.

April 2024



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ELSENHAM TENNIS CLUB

By Petra Studholme ☎ 814667



Essex Small Club League: Captain Jon's report

Unfortunately for the men's team, the second half of February resulted in tough games against Clavering and Harlow. The games were tight, but we lost both overall. We have 4 games left of the winter season and hope to get some well-earned points to finish off the season.

ETC Quiz: 13 April 2024, 7.30 for 8pm at the Bowls Club

Format: Trevor asks the questions; we are supposed to answer them correctly. Good night out in fab company. We provide you with a ploughman's supper and there is a raffle licensed bar.

8 brains per table, £9 per brain (person). To book in your team, please email mail@elsenhamtennisclub.co.uk and we will confirm your table.

Tennis Club Weekly Activities

Tuesday evening – 6.30pm cardio tennis
(non members welcome)

Tuesday evening – 7.30pm club night

Wednesday morning – 10am causal play

Thursday evening – 6.30pm cardio tennis

(non members welcome)

Thursday evening – 7.30pm team practice sessions

Friday morning – 10am casual play

Sunday afternoon – 2pm casual play

STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

By David Brown ☎ 831011 ✉ david1.r.brown@gmail.com



Alisha Maxin will be the activator for our five to eight year old 'All Stars' cricket this season. Alisha was a junior at the club for a few years and now works at Essex County Cricket Club as a community coach. The coaching sessions for that age group will begin on Friday 10 May 5.30pm at our Stansted House ground. If you are interested in getting your youngster into these sessions you will have to register on the 'ecb play all stars' website (<https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/all-stars>).

Juniors have been netting indoors since just after Christmas and will move outside in mid to late April. Funding has been secured for the junior section during the winter months.

The senior teams will begin league cricket on Saturday 4 May with the 1st XI at Hockerill, the 2nd XI at home to Hockerill II, and the newly formed 3rd XI away against Takeley II. Weather permitting friendly matches will take place before the league begins.

The club will be holding a Club v Legends match on Sunday 30 June to celebrate 50 years at our Stansted House ground. The match will be followed by a 'Hog Roast' and drinks. We are hoping that up to 150 club members, old members, friends of the club, and Vice Presidents will attend.

As ever new members are very welcome please contact me as above.

To finish with a nursery rhyme; "Rain, rain, go away, come again some other day, we want to go outside to play, come again some other day". Roll on summer !!!



Elsenham Tennis Club Quiz Night



Saturday April 13
7.30 for 8.00pm start

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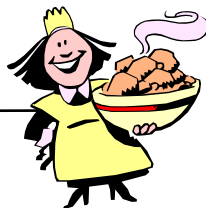


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COOKERY CORNER

By Sue Johnson 🍳 812704



Now is the time for lovely young, pink and tender rhubarb. This easy recipe does make quite a bit of washing up but can be assembled in advance and will sit in the fridge for a couple of days.

RHUBARB AND CHOCOLATE MOUSSE (serves 6)

400g pink rhubarb stalks, washed and sliced into 1½ cm pieces

100g caster sugar

125g white or blond chocolate, broken into pieces

300ml double cream, at room temperature

1 teaspoon vanilla essence

You will need six wine glasses of around 150-175ml capacity.

Put the rhubarb and caster sugar in a saucepan and add 2 tablespoons water. Stir gently over a medium heat for a few minutes until the sugar has dissolved. Cover with a lid, then gently simmer over a medium heat for 5-8 minutes until tender. Leave to cool in a bowl, then chill in the fridge for at least 30 minutes.

Put 100g of the chocolate in a bowl set over a saucepan of gently simmering water and allow to melt. Remove from the heat and leave to cool.

Whisk the cream until just before it forms soft peaks. Add the vanilla extract and melted chocolate and gently fold in. The mixture will thicken slightly.

Divide the chilled rhubarb between the wine glasses. Spoon the mousse on top of the rhubarb in each glass. Finely chop the remaining chocolate and sprinkle over the mousse, then chill in the fridge for at least 2 hours to allow the mousse to set.

CHEF'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

Make sure the cream is at room temperature before whisking, as it needs to be at a similar temperature to combine well with the melted chocolate. Be careful not to over-whisk the cream. The rhubarb can be cooked in advance and kept in the fridge.



Elsenham Tennis Club offers bespoke membership packages for everyone. Our playing year is 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025, so April is an ideal time to join. We have some of the most reasonably priced subscriptions in the area.

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Non-playing: £10

We have two all-weather courts and floodlights so that you can play before or after work. We are situated right in the heart of the village, on the playing field. You will get your own key to access the courts, can book online at your convenience and participate in our club events such as club nights and weekend or morning play sessions.

Morning Play: (Wednesdays and Fridays 10am – 12pm): the best way to trial before you commit

If you fancy trying tennis again, you could always join us for our Morning Play before you sign up for full membership. Doubles format, welcoming small groups, and gentle hit.

Coaching: individual and group sessions

We have individual and group coaching sessions, cardio run by our dedicated and experienced coach Steve Smith. Contact him via email: stevesmith865@hotmail.com or (07790 561 817). Please note that cardio is open to non-members. Cardio is a great way to get or stay fit. Our coach's choice of music is sometimes questionable, but everyone is definitely having fun and getting a great workout.

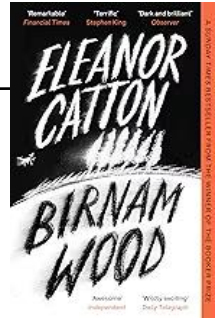
Hire our courts – open to non-members

Hire our courts to play with friends and family for £3 per adult and 50p for under 18s. You can email us or message on Facebook for availability, but please, if possible, give us 24 hours' notice as we need to arrange to open the courts for you.



Advertise your business in Elsenham News
Contact us at
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(See inside back cover for details on rates.)



'Birnam Wood is on the move... Five years ago, Mira Bunting founded a guerrilla gardening group: Birnam Wood. An undeclared, unregulated, sometimes-criminal, sometimes-philanthropic gathering of friends, this activist collective plants crops wherever no one will notice, on the sides of roads, in forgotten parks, and neglected backyards. For years, the group has struggled to break even. Then Mira stumbles on an answer, a way to finally set the group up for the long term: a landslide has closed the Korowai Pass, cutting off the town of Thorndike. Natural disaster has created an opportunity, a sizable farm seemingly abandoned.

But Mira is not the only one interested in Thorndike. Robert Lemoine, the enigmatic American billionaire, has snatched it up to build his end-times bunker - or so he tells Mira when he catches her on the property. Intrigued by Mira, Birnam Wood, and their entrepreneurial spirit, he suggests they work this land. But can they trust him? And, as their ideals and ideologies are tested, can they trust each other? ...' So says the blurb on the back of the book.

- **Thrilling... A mischievous satire... The book's title invites comparisons with Macbeth and, sure enough, it spirals into a tragedy of Shakespearean proportions.** — *The Times*

This was the choice of the book group last month. It was generally well-liked and sparked some lively debate.

This novel takes on some big themes: billionaires, climate change, mining, conservation, criminal activities, mercenaries, property ownership, vanity, power and intrusive technology with the scary potential to change reality. The landscape of New Zealand also plays a big part.

Birnam Wood is a highly engaging character study. Although none of us found any of the characters particularly likeable—they are all well-drawn and we learn a lot about the way they think and consequently the way they behave.

Mira and Shelly are the main leaders of Birnam Wood, but their relationship is strained. An ex-member, Tony, with whom Mira had a relationship returns after many years living abroad trying to make a living as a political journalist. Once Mira engages with Robert Lemoine the whole community moves to the farm. However, Tony discovers all is not as it seems and is determined to expose Lemoine and quickly finds out that this is not a man who should be crossed.

The writing style is sharp but a little wordy in places. The book is a thriller with a good plot and creates a sense of urgency that drives the plot forward and keeps the pages turning towards its shocking but strangely satisfying end.

Published by: Granta Books; International ISBN: 978-1783784288

Editorial Information

Articles

The **last day** for editors to receive articles, advertising and letters, which must contain the author's name and address (which may be withheld), is the 8th of each month.

Articles should ideally consist of a half page of A5 or a full page of A5. Articles over these sizes or letters containing more than 500 words may be edited depending on space.

Copy submitted after the 8th may not be accepted but will, if deemed appropriate, be held over to the next month. We are happy to receive hand written articles which ideally should reach us earlier than the 8th to allow for scanning etc.

Dates for the Diary must include date, event, venue and time.

Please submit all articles, adverts, letters and queries to the editorial team at:
elsenhamsnews@hotmail.co.uk

General Notes

Whilst every effort is made to ensure that information is correct, the editorial team cannot be held responsible for any inconvenience caused through errors or omissions.

The views expressed within this magazine are not necessarily the views of the editorial team or Elsenham Community Association (ECA).

The editors and the ECA can accept no responsibility for the goods or services advertised in the magazine. Advertisements are included in good faith. The editors reserve the right to allow replies to letters/articles to be made in the same edition when appropriate.

The editors' decision is final.

Wanted/For Sale items: individuals may submit short details of items wanted or for sale etc at no charge. These will be included in the next available issue of the magazine subject to space and acceptance by the editors.

Subscriptions

Elsenham News is available by email (on a pdf) at no charge, or through the post at a cost of £13 per annum. Contact **elsenhamsnews@hotmail.co.uk**

Advertising

The costs are as follows:

	Single Insertion	Annual Cost (11 issues)
Half Page	£20.00	£190.00
Quarter Page	£10.00	£100.00
Inside Page	£50.00	n/a
Back Page	£75.00	n/a

Village organisations attract reduced rates, £5 for ¼ page. Half and full-page adverts attract full rates.

To place an advertisement:

For any queries, contact Nathalie. Please send your advert as Word or Publisher via email to **elsenhamsnews@hotmail.co.uk**

Advertising Editor: TBA

Business Advertising

Cheques should be made payable to "**Elsenham Community Association**".

Editorial Team:

**Gary Williams
Emma Bailey
Marion Giles
Patricia Davis
Anne White
Nyaradzo Chabata
Angie Wenlock
David Newland**

Previous issues of Elsenham News are available on the ECA Website

www.ElsenhamCommunityAssociation.org.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS

Election for Essex Police and Fire & Crime Commissioner 2 May 7am to 10pm Memorial Hall
 Elsenham Flower Show Society Plant Sale 18 May 10am - 2pm Memorial Hall
 Neil Diamond Tribute 25 May 7.30pm Bowls and Social Club
 Photographs of old Elsenham 1 and 2 June, St Mary's Church
 History Society 12 June 8pm Memorial Hall
 Village Fete 22 June Playing Field

VILLAGE CONTACTS

Airport Roadside Parking		0800 731 2385
Beavers	1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com	
Bowls Club	Therese Clear	816535 or 07759 158859
Brownies	elsenhambrownies@gmail.com	
Church Office (Old Frank's, High St, Elsenham)	Anna Hicks	814285
County Councillor (Stansted)	Ray Gooding	813103
Cricket Club	David Brown	831011
Cub Scouts	1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com	
ECA (Chairman)	Allan Hathaway	813385
ECA (Secretary)	Moyra Jackson	647351
ECA Website	www.ElsenhamCommunityAssociation.org.uk	
Elsenham Eagles	elsenham.action@btinternet.com	
Elsenham Surgery	www.elsenhamsurgery.nhs.uk	814730
Elsenham C of E Primary School	Linda Todd Headteacher	813198
Elsenham Church PCC Secretary	David Hill	812397
Elsenham Fete	ElsenhamSummerFete@gmail.com	
Elsenham Rights of Way website	www.e-voice.org.uk/erowos/	
Friends of Elsenham School (FOES)	Louise Judd	foespta@hotmail.com
Guides elsenhamguides@gmail.com	Gemma Schafer	07792 572423
Henham & District Garden Society	Moyra Jackson	647351
History Society	Mike Rea	evhs12@hotmail.co.uk 813634
Member of Parliament	Kemi Badenoch	0207 219 5214
Memorial Hall Bookings	Cheryl Rae	817834
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator	Frances Lambert	07771 728332
	franceslambertnhw@btinternet.com	
Parish Clerk - Louise Johnson	louise.epc@gmail.com	07456 791727
Elsenham Parish Council Website	www.elsenham-pc.gov.uk	
Police		101
Post Office		812175
Rainbows	elsenhamrainbows@gmail.com	
Scouts	1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com	
St Mary's Fabric Fund	Elizabeth Barker	813543
Tennis Club	Petra Studholme	814667
Tots & Toddlers	Dawn Temple	07944 841358
Uttlesford District Councillors	Petrina Lees	816675
(for Elsenham & Henham)	Bianca Donald	07941 880279
Village Hall Bookings	elsenhamvillagehall@gmail.com	
Womens Institute Secretary	Gill Hathaway	813385
Youth Football Club (Chairman)	Ricky Lambourne	info@elsenhamyfc.co.uk

If you would like your village organisation contact to appear regularly in the magazine, please contact one of the editors, see opposite for details.

THERE'S SO MUCH TO DO AT GWS!



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