

Elsenham News



August 2022

elsenhamnews@hotmail.co.uk

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Elsenham Village Regular Monthly or Quarterly Activities

Parish Council 1st **Monday** of month 8pm (excl. Bank Holidays) Memorial Hall
Village Café Coffee 1st & 3rd **Tuesday** 9.30 - 11.30am Memorial Hall
& 2nd & 4th **Tuesday** 9.30 - 11.30am Bowls & Social Club
Henham & District Garden Soc. 1st **Tuesday** of month 2.30 - 4pm Memorial Hall
Community Choir 1st & 3rd **Tuesdays** of the month 7 - 8.30pm Village Hall
Life Drawing 2nd **Tuesday** of month 7.30 - 9.30 Village Hall
Natter Night 2nd **Tuesday** of the month from 7.30pm Bowls & Social Club
Village History Society 1st **Wednesday** of month quarterly 7.45pm Memorial Hall
Church Lunch Club 2nd & 4th **Friday** of the month 12.30pm Memorial Hall

August diary

Mon 1	Parish Council Meeting	Memorial Hall 8pm
Tues 2 & 16	Village Café Coffee Morning	Memorial Hall 9.30 - 11.30am
Tues 2	Henham & District Garden Soc	Memorial Hall 2.30pm
Tues 2 & 16	Elsenham Community Choir	Village Hall 7pm
Fri 5	Afternoon Tea in aid of Breast Cancer	Memorial Hall 2-4pm
Tues 9 & 23	Village Café Coffee Morning	Bowls & Social Club 9.30 - 11.30am
Tues 9	Life Drawing	Village Hall 7.30pm
Tues 9	Natter Night	Bowls & Social Club 7.30pm
Wed 10	District Councillors' Surgery	Orwell House, Station Road 6pm
Fri 12 & 26	Church Lunch Club	Memorial Hall 12.30pm
Thu 18	Elsenham WI	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Sat 20	Flower Show	Playing Fields 3pm
Sat 20	Bingo	Bowls & Social Club 7.30

Mobile Library

Every third Thursday at Glebe End 11.50 am to 12.20 pm
Next Date is August 18



Elsenham Village Regular Weekly Activities

Day	Time	Activity	Location
Monday	9.30-10.30am	Zumba	Memorial Hall
	10.30am	Health walk	Start at De Mandeville Green
	7.30-8.30pm	Shape to the beat	Memorial Hall (not 1st Monday)
Tuesday	4.45-5.45pm	Rainbows	Memorial Hall (term-time)
	6-7.15pm	Cubs	Henham Village Hall (term time)
	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
	5.45-6.45pm	Beavers	Henham Village Hall (term-time)
	7-9pm	Scouts	Henham Village Hall (term-time)
Thursday	9.30-11am	Slimming World	Memorial Hall
	6-7.15pm	Cubs	Henham Village Hall (term-time)
Friday	10-11am	Little Fishes	Memorial Hall (term-time)
	5.45-6.45pm	Beavers Group 2	Henham Village Hall (term-time)
Saturday	9am-12pm	Junior Football	Playing Field
	8.45-9.30am	Little Kickers Mighty	Village Hall (term time)
	9.35-10.20am	Little Kickers Junior	Village Hall (term time)

From The Parish Registers

Funerals:

Memorial Service on 1st July 2022 at Elsenham Church, Dennis & Barbara Haslam, formerly of New Road, Elsenham

Church Office	01279 814285	Anna Hicks
Church e-mail address		office@heuchurch.co.uk
Church web-site address		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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THE NEWS REPORT

From The Editors



One of the advantages of editing Elsenham News is access to the many local tradespeople in our area. If ever you need any sort of service—plumber, electrician, mechanic—you will almost certainly find them in these pages. As reflected on this month's front page.

The modern way is for people to ask on Facebook or the Elsenham and Henham Newslines if any one knows if there is a local tradesperson they can talk to about a service. So next time someone asks, just say look in the Elsenham News!

There is a lot covered this month, with everything from ideas for entertaining the children (Daisy Mays pg19 and the Scouts pg29 for example) to the History Society (pg33) for those more interested in their local surroundings.

Our village Church is a major part of our history, so please see the Fabric Fund article on pg21.

Those demon race track drivers are coming under pressure and let's hope the Community Speed Watch team get even more police support (pg15).

There are so many community activities, it makes you feel good to be living in Elsenham. So let's hope we can keep a community feel about the place and not just end up as an urban sprawl. It is worth reading Development Developments (pg11) to see what's going on and who is doing what to our local environment. I think you might be surprised at how some see their role in supporting their community.

If you are involved in a local community activity and want more publicity, talk to us at Elsenham News. A regular piece in our journal could well generate the interest you need. Drop us a line via email (our contact details are on the front page).

Have a great Summer and we look forward to bringing you another edition next month with, hopefully, even more community activities covered.

Regular features

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ELSENHAM PARISH COUNCIL 6 JUNE 2022

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



Elsenham Parish Council meeting held on 4 July 2022

Chairman, Graham Mott, welcomed two new members onto the Parish Council. Mr Gary Bentley who is a new councillor and Mrs. Frances Lambert who is re-joining the Parish Council after a short break.

The tenders for the new play equipment have been placed on the Government's Contracts Finders website, the closing date is 11 August 2022. To replace the window, that was vandalised in the teen shelter in the playing field would cost about £800. It was therefore agreed not to have it replaced and to also remove the adjacent window, the Parish Council thank Mr Allan Hathaway who offered to remove it free of charge.

An unknown driver knocked down the streetlight in Station Road by the Doctors' Surgery, then drove off without stopping. To replace the column will cost £1,850, plus an additional £1,500 - £2,000 for the power transfer. It was agreed that a replacement streetlight was required; the Parish Council will therefore claim through their insurance.

A clothing bank is to be placed in the playing field car park. It is completely free of charge with no contract. The bank will be emptied once a week and the Parish Council will receive 30p per kilo of clothing.

The post at the emergency entrance to Elsenham Vale has been knocked down again. Please do not use this access to enter or exit Elsenham Vale. It is a very dangerous turning and is for emergency vehicles only.

The Parish Council are looking for a volunteer to become a Community Special Constable to work in Elsenham. Special constables are volunteer police officers. They have the same powers, uniforms and equipment as regular police officers. They do not get paid but are reimbursed for any expenses. Community special constables will get the same training as regular officers. If you would like more information, please contact the Parish Clerk louise.epc@gmail.com

It was agreed unanimously not to allow 'We Buy Any Car' to use the playing fields car park. They offered to pay up to £14,000 per year for the use of 12 parking spaces. The Parish Council agreed that all the parking spaces are required for residents, especially the Football Club, Bowls Club and special event days.

The next Parish Council meeting is to be held on Monday 1 August at 8pm in The Memorial Hall.

GARDEN HINT

Leave the white clover to flower in your lawn and you'll be helping to feed the bees, as well as putting nitrogen into the soil and keeping other weeds at bay.

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Craig Pike



DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

AUGUST 2022

By Cllr Lees and Cllr LeCount

✉ Cllrlecount@uttlesford.gov.uk

✉ Cllrlees@uttlesford.gov.uk

☎ 07836 346717

☎ 816675



We would be grateful if residents could respond to the survey about the reduced level of council tax for residents on low incomes. We are asking for your views on how much support the Council should give to people who might struggle to pay their council tax bill.

Details of the proposed 2023/24 scheme are available at:

<https://letstalk.uttlesford.gov.uk/lcts-scheme-for-2023-24>.

The deadline for comments is **5 September 2022**.

Our previous efforts for feedback resulted in only 29 responses. Other administrations have engaged a market research company to contact people by phone for responses. For a cost of £7,500 consultants NWA obtained around 500 responses. Rather than spending large sums of money, we thought we would give residents a little nudge.

Garry has led the Task and Finish Group regarding the Stansted Airport Appeal. An independent report was commissioned and submitted to Scrutiny and Full Council for acceptance of the findings and to endorse the Action Plan. Many lessons have been learnt and an Action Plan has been prepared to implement the recommended changes.

The census shows that between 2011 and 2021 our district saw the second largest increase in the country in the number of households – up 18.2%. The only higher growth was in London's Tower Hamlets where large-scale housing redevelopment took place on the brownfield sites of the Olympic Park. We have also experienced much more building than any of our neighbouring districts.

We know that we need a Local Plan in this district as we are committed to create a proper plan with the right evidence and putting residents at the centre. It takes time and we need supporting evidence to do a proper job. It is important that our latest plan doesn't fail as previous plans have failed. Our New Director of Planning has started at UDC and his previous job was under Michael Gove. His experience and enthusiasm we are sure will lead us in the right direction.

We hope all residents have an enjoyable summer. We have supported the Flower and Produce show by donating some of our Ward Initiative Fund towards the marquee. We hope to see many of you there. If you have a local project that requires some monetary assistance, please ask.

As always, we are available to converse with any of our residents via telephone, email or Zoom.

Our next surgery is 6pm on Wednesday 10 August at Orwell House, Station Road, Elsenham, CM22 6LA

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DEVELOPMENT DEVELOPMENTS

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



A meeting of Uttlesford District Council's Planning Committee was held on 6 July. It was resolved to refuse the outline application to build up to 50 new homes to the south of Bedwell Road by a margin of six votes to three. Garry LeCount, District Councillor for Elsenham and Henham ward, was one of the minority of three voting against refusal and has since explained that it was 'my decision for residents in Elsenham'.

A meeting between representatives of UDC, the applicants and the parish councils of Elsenham and Ugley was held previously, at which a substantial tranche of cash (all right, £100,000) was agreed to be included in the Section 106 agreement by way of contribution to Elsenham's new Community Hall, to be implemented should the application be approved. The applicants could now appeal - if they do, and are successful, the Community Hall contribution should still be included.

As expected, excessive noise from the motorway was the major issue. The majority of councillors were distinctly unimpressed by the strategy of building three-storey blocks of 'affordable' flats in order to shield the market homes. 'What shields the shielders?' asked one councillor, and another pointed out that there are plenty of fields in the district which are not subject to the unrelenting drone of inescapable noise, day and night, 24/365 (or perhaps 24/360 if we remember that it is a bit quieter over Christmas).

There are proposals to build yet more houses locally. Nothing more has been heard of the intention to put 130 homes on the field to the south of the Crown, but the silence could well be ominous. Bloor Homes have said that they intend to apply for about another 200 dwellings to the north of their agreed application for 350, in what they describe as 'Phase 2'. They did not describe the agreed application as 'Phase 1', but the explanation as to why its northern boundary is nowhere in particular is now clear - it's not intended as a permanent boundary.

Both these sites were submitted last year in response to UDC's 'Call for Sites' exercise, intended as a preliminary in its ongoing laboured efforts to produce a new Local Plan. A further delay of six months has been announced by UDC's Chief Executive, on account of 'big new positive opportunities' from potential local benefactors who, unlike all the other respondents, failed to get their application in on time and are also to be allowed the curtain of anonymity, with the possibility that they can fiddle about for several months and then decide that, well perhaps this isn't quite our sort of thing, after all. The Chief Executive cautions us against 'imagining that anyone is in full control of the wider situation', which will not be difficult. Apparently, he took the decision to defer on his own responsibility, having consulted some small number of leading councillors; but there has been no vote at UDC to confirm the decision. We are assured that the newly appointed Director of Planning will swiftly get a grip on the whole Planning Department. There is plenty to grab hold of.

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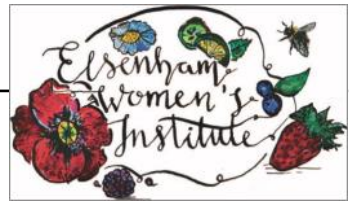
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ELSENHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

By Moyra Jackson ☎ 647351



I am writing this as the sun shines and temperatures head towards 30 degrees – lovely!

Elsenham WI was well represented at the Federation of Essex WI's Annual Meeting held this year at Charter Hall, Colchester both on and off the stage. Eight of our members had a lovely day there with first of all the business element of the meeting and then the entertainment – the amazing Jenny Bond, former Royal Correspondent who charmed us with her stories followed by 'Big Sing' Community Choir.

Add into the mix shopping opportunities, food and meeting friends from other WIs and you have the recipe for a great day. Two members from Elsenham (Gill Hathaway and myself) had to endure nerves and stage fright to play our part on stage as Trustees at Essex Federation. Delighted to report it all went well and we have both been asked to serve a further year on the Board.



Sharon Gould came along to our last meeting and showed us how to upcycle old jewellery into new, beautiful necklaces and earrings. Sharon was an excellent speaker with a very interesting back-story. Even more interesting were the stories that emerged from the competition entries. Members brought along their favourite pieces of jewellery – all beautiful, and the stories behind them were fascinating.

Our meeting this month is our annual Summer Party with entertainment from the fabulous Silver Darlings, Essex's very own female Shanty Band. The competition is 'Something Nautical' – anyone got a dinghy I can borrow?!

Coming up – our 'Posh Frocks and Hats' Garden Party, a very special Members Day, an introduction to British Sign Language, a "Big 7 Christmas Tasting" (it's with C & M Distillery to give you a clue) then we end the year with a Christmas Extravaganza – I bet you all want to join now! It's never too late (or early).

While we are very proud of our Jam and Jerusalem traditions, Elsenham WI is so much more than that and we are always happy to dispel any stereotypes associated with the WI. Why not come along (or come back) – visitors and new members are always welcome.

Details of our programme, events and activities can be found on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram – search for Elsenham WI. Visitors are welcome to our monthly meetings so please come along. We meet at 7.45pm on the third Thursday in the month in the Memorial Hall.

Elsenham WI – There's a lot going on!

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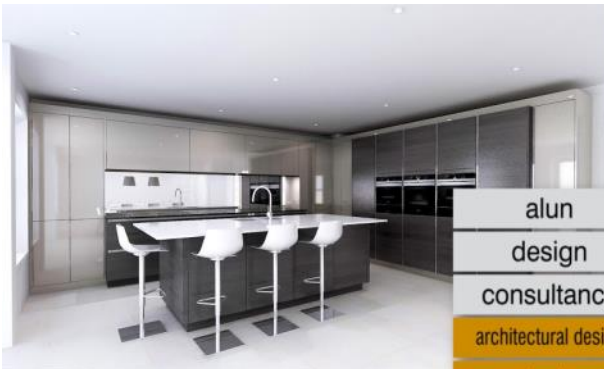
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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

By Frances Lambert ☎ 07771 728332



This month's report is a request for help from the police. Please pass this information onto others so no one gets caught out by this bogus fishman.....

Police Constable 3574 Kerry Rowson

We have been made aware that there is a man travelling to our rural villages trying to defraud vulnerable people pretending to sell fish. The man is attending addresses and pretending that he has sold fish to the occupants before. He then takes money on the promise of returning with the order but he doesn't.

We are making enquiries into this but please share this information and if you do care for loved ones, please tell them not to give anyone money on the doorstep.

If anyone has more information or has any CCTV or doorbell footage, please contact us. You can submit a report online at www.essex.police.uk or use the 'Live Chat' button to speak to an online operator between 7am-11pm.

Please quote crime number 42/131886/22. You can also call us on 101 or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Uttlesford Community Policing Team

Remember if you see something urgent that Police should know about dial 999, for anything else dial 101.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH The Traffic Police visit Elsenham

On the 29th June 2022 we were joined by two Police officers DC Alan Lamb and DC Martyn Wells from the Serious Collision Investigation Unit at Boreham. Despite being very quiet on the road, they pulled over and stopped about a dozen vehicles for speeding and issued various notices to them.

It was also nice that several residents of the village stopped to thank the officers, and they all said what a race track the road was when CSW was not out there.

Amongst those stopped by the police was a lady who would have been issued with a speed awareness course by him, until she said....." Oh I am booked to go on one of those in July"There are some drivers who are just persistent speeders, and never learn.



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ELSENHAM FLOWER SHOW SOCIETY

By Sue Johnson ☎ 812704



MEMORIAL HALL on the PLAYING FIELD SATURDAY 20th AUGUST 2022

In the centre pages of the magazine, you will find the schedule and rules for our 2022 Flower Show, which will take place on Saturday 20 August in the Memorial Hall and marquee on the Playing Field.

If you would like to compete in any of the Show Classes, you will find an entry form on page 45. If you require further copies for extra family members, please do get in touch by phoning ☎ 812704 or ✉ susanjohnson09@hotmail.co.uk. It really is easy to enter. Just tick the class(es) you wish to enter and add up the appropriate fees (40p per class, up to a maximum of £4 regardless of the number of entries). Put your entry form in an envelope along with your fee and pop into our letterbox at Le Touquet, Station Road, Elsenham CM22 6LG, before midnight on Sunday 14 August. Again, give us a ring if you need any assistance or help with filling in the form.

Please do encourage your children to enter. There are five children's classes and these are free to enter. Children may also enter any of the adult classes of course, though the 40p fee applies.

Exhibits for the show should be brought along to the Memorial Hall on show morning between the hours of 9am and 10.45am. If you wish to enter any of the produce, handicraft or photography classes but will be away at the time of the show, again, just give us a ring and we will be happy to put your exhibit on display for you. This also applies to any children wishing to enter, as we do realise that the show is held during prime school holiday time. We do not want our village children to miss out!

The Top Tray/Top Vase classes will be sponsored by the Flower Show Society, with garden vouchers as prizes. If you are interested in entering either of these classes, please ring for the rules which will be available upon request.

The show opens to the public at 3pm. with an Auction of Produce (beautiful vegetables, flowers, jams, chutneys and even some cakes) and Prize Giving taking place at around 4.30pm. Please do come along and support us!

A huge thank you to those of you who kindly opened their gardens for our Village Open Gardens Day on 26 June. The weather was warm and sunny. A most wonderful day was had by all! Profits from this event will go towards the cost of staging our Flower Show. Very many thanks especially to Steve Hardy for organising a most successful event.

A copy of our GDPR policy is available on request from Sue Johnson.

35th
YEAR

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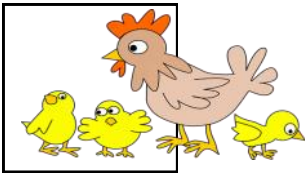


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Daisy May's Farm

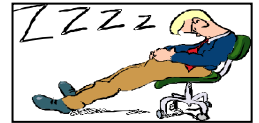
Come and have fun on the farm this summer and bring your friends! We have a fabulous safe area to play in, a picnic area, den building, a splashing stream, a woodland trail to explore, themed crafts, refreshments, and ice creams and lots of animals to see! We also still have lots of babies of all sorts everywhere..... chicks, ducklings, and you can even cuddle the lambs and kid goats and they all love our visitors! Entry is £5 (under 1's free) and it really is a fabulous day out for all the family. We also have our fabulous **woodland campsite**, and you can stay in the woodland area and get back in touch with nature or stay in our camper/ caravan paddock where there is lots of space and lovely scenery. All of these options obviously include entry to the farm where you can meet our lovely animals and all their babies, what a fabulous holiday and all for just £25 a night AND on your doorstep! Please message us through our Facebook page to book.



Ray's Reflections

Ray's Reflections

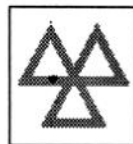
Village Shops



Talk to older village folk about local shops when you had personal attention and service. Hear about days when flour sold by the stone, scooped from a large bin and filled into brown paper bags. Sugar was kept in containers and sold in blue paper bags. I remember sitting in the Store with John Buttle making-up blue bags for use in the shop. Butter and lard were cut to the customer's orders. Salt broken off a large block. Housewives with a large family would purchase a half or full block. Vinegar sold by the half-pint or pint and filled into customer's own bottle. This was often a "Bishop's Stortford Mineral Water" pop bottle! Sweets sold in three-cornered bags. Bacon cut from roll, scales had weights. Shops had a real sense of place in the community, these days it seems that shop assistants find it hard to even smile at customers, let alone make conversation. Making money from a village shop required a special form of expertise. In addition to being a shrewd businessman you HAD to go that little extra to supply your customers' needs. Some of Jim's clientele were extremely well monied and requested unusual things. To fill a special "want" he would buy one bottle of Extra, extra, extra Virgin Olive Oil from "Holland & Barretts" of Bishop's Stortford. It was uneconomical to purchase a case only to sell two or three over twelve months. It was explained by Mr. Buttle that Virgin Olive Oil was picked by girls who could run very, very fast! Jim boiled his own gammon and generally did all he could to meet local needs. I remember half loaves of bread being sold with the other half going into the freezer, catering for the single person.

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Going, Going,Gone?

No, this is not an auction. It is the future facing the Fabric Fund of your church, the church of St. Mary the Virgin, Elsenham.

As many of you will know, St Mary's is an early Norman church, dating back to 1110. It is a Grade 1 listed building of significant historical importance, and one of the oldest churches in the county to be still in regular use. Obviously a building of this age needs a lot of maintenance, and the Fabric Fund has for many years organised fund-raising events to help support the building's maintenance.

However, like many other organisations our pool of volunteers is dwindling and aging, to the point where we must seriously consider the fact that we could not be able to continue putting on our events, such as BBQs, concerts, and our famous Christmas Tree Festival. So we need help. Much more help, and this is where you come in. We need more of our villagers to volunteer to help with organising and running our events. We are not asking for major commitments; just an hour or so to help in setting up, welcoming, serving refreshments, helping in car parking, etc.

If you are able to give us an hour or so of your time on a few occasions during the year, then please contact me. I do not want our Fabric Fund to become a thing of the past, like so many other things nowadays. I hope that you feel the same.

On Sunday September 10 we are holding a garden party/BBQ up at the church to welcome our new vicar – all welcome, especially those offering us a hand!

Elsenham Village Fete

By Elaine Terry ✉ elaine.terry2011@btinternet.com

To everyone who came to the fete and drank a cuppa, bought a raffle ticket, played a game, slurped an ice cream, entered a competition, asked a question, cuddled a lamb, quaffed a pint, purchased something special, won a prize, created something, met a guide dog, learnt a circus skill, watched an arena display, experienced real magic, or simply got windblown.....THANK YOU!

Whatever it was you did at our Village Fete this year, we are so grateful that you actually braved the elements and turned up! What a fantastic community we have in Elsenham! There is always so much that goes on behind the scenes, our fete is only possible with the help of many marvellous people, and we cannot thank you all enough – you all know who you are. Thanks to each and every one of you!

We have put our order in for fabulous fete weather for next year – **SATURDAY 17th JUNE 2023** and are looking to work with a fresh group of people to take our wonderful fete on to the next generation to ensure its future! Please get in touch if you want to see your fete carry on (elaine.terry2011@btinternet.com or allanhathaway@sky.com).

ST MARY'S CHURCH ELSENHAM

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Thought For The Month

In his letter to the Philippians the Apostle Paul urged them to 'rejoice in the Lord always'. He wanted them to be joyful because of all that the Lord had done for them, and would continue to do for them. This was a strange request from Paul, as we might think that he himself had little to be joyful about.

He wrote his letter from a jail in Rome where he was awaiting trial for stirring up opposition to the Emperor, who claimed to be God. Paul insisted that the God he worshipped and obeyed was the one true God. If found guilty, which was extremely likely, Paul knew he would face the death penalty. Yet, whilst facing the privations of prison life, and all that entailed, Paul was able to be happy and joyful 'in the Lord'.

Things were not much better for the Philippians either. They were a small, new, church in a Roman city. Whereas the Roman authorities tolerated the Jews practising their religion, as long as they caused no problems, they took a very dim view of any other religions.

As a church the Philippians were subject to harassment, persecution and discrimination. We might think that they had little to be joyous about.

And what about us? The news is full of sad and difficult things. The war in Ukraine goes from bad to worse; the cost of living continues to spiral out of control; the price of electricity, gas and petrol seems to rise and rise, the political world seems to be in turmoil.

Do we have much to be joyful about? The answer is – yes, in the Lord.

God alone can solve all of these problems, and He will. No matter how bad things look, no matter how hopeless the situations may appear, we are to trust in Him. We are to rejoice that we know him, and he knows us. That we love him and he loves us.

How will God resolve all the problems of the world? The answer simply is God knows. It is not given to us to know the mind of God, and what power he has, what miracles he can work, that is for God alone to know.

Yes, we can be confident that there is an answer, a solution, an overcoming of our difficulties, and that God knows what he will do, and when he will do it, and we mere mortals cannot begin to comprehend any of that. But we can have confidence that God is in charge, that he is in control and that he will get things sorted, as it were.

It is for this reason we are able to rejoice, to feel great joy, in the Lord.

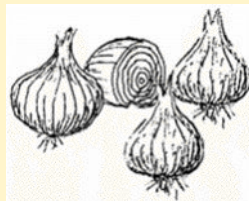
**Roger Clark –
Churchwarden, Elsenham**



ELSENHAM FLOWER SHOW SOCIETY SHOW SCHEDULE 2022

FLOWER Classes:

- (* **Trophy Classes**)
1. Specimen Rose (named if possible), all buds should be removed *
 2. 3 Specimen Roses (any variety or varieties), all buds removed *
 3. 3 Stems of Floribunda Roses
 4. 3 Decorative and/or Ball Dahlia Blooms
 5. A Mixed Vase of Dahlias – 5 blooms or more
 6. 3 Dahlia Blooms (bedding/dwarf variety)
 7. 3 Cactus/semi-cactus Dahlias
 8. 5 Stems (each one a different flower) *
 9. 9 Sweet Peas *
 10. 5 Asters (all singles or all doubles)
 11. Vase of 'Shades of yellow' flowers (up to 5 stems)
 12. 3 Spikes Gladioli
 13. 3 Pansy heads floating in a saucer of water
 14. Vase of Sunflowers (3 stems)
 15. Vase of Foliage - 5 kinds
 16. My Best Bloom *
 17. Flowering Pot Plant (not fuchsia, begonia, geranium or orchid) *
- bloom - max. pot size 20cms (8")
 18. Foliage Pot Plant - bloom - max. pot size 20cms (8") *
 19. Geranium Plant in Bloom - max. pot size 20cms (8") *
 20. Bush Fuchsia Plant in Bloom - max. pot size 20cms (8") *
 21. An Orchid Plant in bloom - max. pot size 20cms (8")
 22. A Begonia Plant in bloom - max. pot size 20cms (8")
 23. Succulent/Cactus in container - max. 20 cm (8") diameter
 24. Fuchsias – 6 flower heads –mounts for flowers supplied at the show
 25. **CHILDREN ONLY** - A Fan of Leaves, max. A4 size. *
 26. EFSS TOP VASE CLASS



VEGETABLE/FRUIT Classes:

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

27. Herbs - one vase - 3 kinds
28. My Best Herb, as grown (max. pot 15cm (6"))
29. 3 Sweet Peppers (with some stalk attached)
30. 6 Hot / Chilli Peppers (with some stalk attached)

31. 4 Carrots (with 7.5cms (3") tops)
32. 4 Potatoes (coloured)
33. 4 Potatoes (white)
34. 6 Pods of Runner Beans (with some stalk attached)
35. 6 Pods of Dwarf French Beans (with some stalk attached)
36. 1 Lettuce (with root)
37. 4 Tomatoes, not cherry (ripe with stalk)
38. 6 'Cherry' Tomatoes (ripe with stalk) not exceeding 3.5 cm diameter
39. 1 Cucumber
40. 2 Marrows
41. 4 Onions each one 250 grams or under
42. 4 Onions each one over 250 grams
43. 2 Courgettes (10 – 20cms long, or if round, 7.5cm dia. approx.)
44. 5 Shallots
45. 3 Beetroots (with 7.5cms (3") tops)
46. 2 Of the same kind of vegetable not already listed
47. 3 Bulbs of Garlic
48. 1 Vegetable Oddity
49. Heaviest Marrow *
50. Heaviest Onion *
51. Heaviest Potato
52. Longest Runner Bean
53. Longest Stick of Rhubarb
54. Plate of Fruit, not already listed (all fruit with stalks, if possible) max. plate diameter 23 cms (9")
55. Plate of 3 Dessert Apples (fruit with stalks, if possible) max. plate 23cms (9")
56. Plate of 3 Culinary Apples (fruit with stalks, if possible) max. plate 23cms (9")
57. **CHILDREN ONLY** - 'A Potato Head', made from a selection of vegetables and/or fruit; overall height, width and length – 30cm (12")
58. **EFSS TOP TRAY CLASS**

PRODUCE Classes:

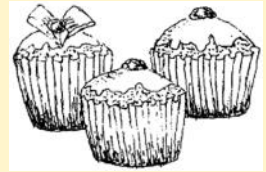
Jars to be filled and covered with clear cellophane tops except Classes 65 and 67.

59. 1 Jar Marmalade
60. 1 Jar Strawberry Jam
61. 1 Jar Raspberry Jam
62. 1 Jar Stoned Fruit Jam
63. 1 Jar Fruit Jelly
64. 1 Jar Lemon Curd
65. 1 Jar Chutney
66. 1 Jar of Preserve, not already listed
67. 1 bottle of Home-made Liqueur (e.g. Sloe Gin)



BAKING Classes:

68. **MEN ONLY** 3 cheese scones *
69. 'Show Stopper', Platinum Jubilee Celebration - let your imagination run wild!
70. 5 pieces of Shortbread
71. Carrot Cake
72. 3 Bacon and Cheese Puff Pastry Wraps
73. Olive Loaf
74. Bakewell Tart
75. **CHILDREN ONLY** - 3 Butterfly Cakes



FLOWER ARRANGING Classes:

All arrangements in the classes must use fresh flowers and foliage. Boards 60cms x 60cms (24" x 24") will be available upon which arrangements must be displayed, with the exception of Class 76. For classes 77, 78 and 79, arrangements must be displayed within the area of the board. No part of the arrangement may exceed the size of the board.

76. A Miniature Arrangement (max. 10cms (4") overall) *
77. 'Afternoon Tea', *no more than three (3) props allowed excluding vase*
78. 'An Oriental Dinner Table Arrangement' *no extra props allowed**
79. 'At the Seaside' *no more than three (3) props allowed excluding vase*

HANDICRAFT Classes:

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

80. An Article in Crochet *
81. A Decorated Box , *max size 15cm x 20cm (6" x 8")*
82. A Hand Knitted Article *
83. An Article in Cross Stitch using Embroidery Silks
84. A Picture in Any Medium (max. size 45cms (18") square)
85. A **Handwritten** Limerick – 'There was an old woman from Mull'
(to be mounted on card measuring 15cms x 20cms (6" x 8"))
86. **CHILDREN ONLY** 'A pair of flip flops made from recycled material' max. size to be 15cm (6") long

PHOTOGRAPHY Classes:

Photographs should measure 15cms x 20cms (6" x 8") and labelled, and be mounted on stiff card, measuring no more than 18cms x 23 cms (7" x 9"). Entries must be original photographic images; no computer created pictures will be accepted.

87. 'Street Life'
88. 'Bloom(s)'
89. 'Weather'
90. 'Pond Life'
91. **CHILDREN ONLY** 'Farm Animals'

ELSENHAM FLOWER SHOW 2022

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 9am to 10.45am on the morning of the show.
3. Judging is from 11am (Public not admitted to this.)
4. Open to the public 3pm. Admission - £1.
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. 4pm). An auction will be held for donated exhibits, after which the presentation of awards will be made.
6. Entry money - Each exhibit charged at 40p. For 10 or more entries (total) equals £4.
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, **with the exception of Class 26**. 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 (with the exception of 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 Sue Johnson by **Sunday, 14 August 2022**. **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 Sue Johnson, 'Le Touquet', Station Road.
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. Please ensure that our trophies are covered by your household insurance.
19. No points will be awarded for Class **68**. Children's classes will be scored separately.

Sue Johnson, Secretary, 'Le Touquet', Station Road 📞 812704

CHURCH EVENTS IN OUR VILLAGES AUGUST 2022

Church Services

St Mary's, Elsenham 8.45am

Sun 7 BCP Morning Prayer
Sun 28 BCP Morning Prayer

St Peter's, Ugley 10.00am

Sun 7 Morning Service
Sun 28 Morning Service

Elsenham Village Hall 10.15am

Sun 7 Morning Service
Sun 28 Morning Service

St Mary's, Henham 11.15am

Sun 7 Holy Communion
Sun 28 Morning Service

St Mary's, Henham 6.00pm

Sun 7 Sunday@Six
Sun 14 Sunday@Six
Sun 21 Sunday@Six
Sun 28 Sunday@Six

Combined Benefice Morning Services this month:

Sun 14 St Mary's Elsenham, 10.30am
Sun 21 St Peter's Ugley, 10.30am

Sunday lunchtime picnics (all welcome). Bring a packed lunch and folding chair from 1pm to:

7th August: 10, Hailes Wood,
Elsenham CM22 6DQ
14th August: Rowan House, High Street,
Elsenham CM22 6DD
21st August: 'St Helen's', High Street,
Stebbing CM6 3SE
28th August: TBC
4th September: Springate House,
Chickney Road, Henham CM22 6BQ

**A chance for fun and
fellowship together!**

Other regular events

Youth groups have now finished for the summer. They will all return on 11th September 2022.

MID-WEEK AND SATURDAY

Start the Week with Prayer

Church Hall, Henham 9.30am
Mondays: 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd

Benefice Prayer Supper

Church Hall, Henham 7.30pm
Mondays (4th of each month) 22nd

Church Lunch Club

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

Afternoon Tea

OSCA, Henham 2.00pm
Saturday (3rd of month): 20th

**For information on all these events,
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SCOUTING NEWS

By Matt Morland (Akela) ☎ 07423 620120

✉ 1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com



Another busy month for scouting in the village, with our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts taking part in activities both locally and further afield ahead of the summer break.

Beavers have been making the most of the wonderful weather, with a “Dens and Doughnuts” evening, outdoor cooking over open fires, and a hike around Henham.



Our cubs have been litter-picking around the village, conducting science experiments with water rockets, and took part in a games evening with 1st Takeley Cub Pack.

Scouts have been pushing the boundaries of adventurous activities, with open water swimming (which also included swimming in a torrential downpour!), practising pioneering skills by building a 20ft monkey bridge using wooden poles, lashings and knots, and taking part in further navigation exercises out in the countryside. Our group’s end-of-term adventures include an evening at the Nuclear Races Wild Forest Assault Course for Beavers, a trip to see the Peter Pan production at Joyce Frankland Academy for cubs, (with the show being set up and directed by our very talented cubs leaders Baloo and Bagheera), and an overnight Survival Camp in the woods for scouts.

The undoubted highlight of the summer term was the Cubs Mega and Scouts Epic Camps. Our scouters have waited patiently (and excitedly) for these events for a long time and the weekends didn’t disappoint, with canoeing, paddleboarding, archery, axe-throwing, rifle shooting, open air cinema, tug-o-war, discos and many, many more exciting activities. Our cubs and scouts would not have had such a fantastic time without the tremendous support of our leader teams who gave up their weekends to move masses of equipment and supplies to and from camp, and supported our young people in setting up and running their campsites. A huge thank you to everyone who supported this event, allowing our young people to take part.


And finally, a quick note on a change in our leadership team. Scout Leader Anthea Thomas and myself have now taken on the roles of Joint Group Scout Leaders, to manage, support and develop our scout group and its leaders, to ensure we provide an effective and exciting Scouting programme for young people in our community. We eagerly anticipate the challenge of taking our scout group forward.



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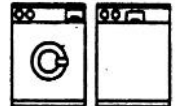
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Friendly Prompt Service

ELSENHAM C. OF E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

By Linda Reid, Headteacher



With Covid behind us, classes have been making the most of being able to go on school trips again. Our Year 2 children enjoyed a wonderful day out exploring the underwater world of the Southend Sealife Centre. They had been learning about animals and their habitats in their science lessons so this was a great way of consolidating their learning. Favourite spots of the day were the stingrays, clown fish, sea horses and of course the sharks! Favourite fact of the day: Did you know that a Yellow Ray's wingspan can be 6 metres wide?

Year 4 also ventured out. They headed to West Stow Anglo-Saxon village, where they were able to explore Anglo-Saxon life through a hands-on experience of artefacts and reconstructed buildings. This brought their classroom history lessons to life.

Year 3 on the other hand brought Rome to school! They immersed themselves in a day of workshops, making, creating and performing.

At Elsenham C.of E. Primary School we aim to give the children a broad and balanced curriculum which is creatively and inspirationally delivered.

ELSENHAM COMMUNITY CHOIR

By Elaine Terry ☎ 07962 586825

✉ elaine.terry2011@btinternet.com



Would you like to make new friends? Well, singing in a group (such as a choir) can help forge social bonds and fast!

Do you worry about getting stale? Well, singing not only exercises the brain, it also helps improve posture, muscle tension and breathing.

Singing, whether alone or in a group, has been shown to improve our sense of well being and happiness and learning new songs is cognitively stimulating and can help the memory, so it's a win, win!

Why not give the Elsenham Community Choir a go? You will make new friends, feel uplifted with a sense of achievement, and have some fun too. Oh, and we also always have chocolates!

So hey, why not try something new? Come and join us the first and third Tuesday of every month at 7.00pm until 8.30pm in Elsenham Village Hall (attached to the school).

There are **no auditions** at our choir, all you have to do is just turn up and sing. There is **always a warm welcome** on your arrival, whether with friends or on your own, everyone has a place in our Choir.

Please feel free to contact us on our **Elsenham Community Choir Facebook page** or Elaine Terry on ☎ 07962 586825 or ✉ elaine.terry2011@btinternet.com. We look forward to welcoming you.

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ELSENHAM VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

By Mike Rea, Secretary ☎ 813634 ✉ evhs12@hotmail.co.uk

🌐 www.elsenham-history.co.uk



Although by the time you read this the village fete is but a distant memory, we were very pleased to meet the many visitors and members who came to view our stand. We hope you enjoyed the snapshot of village life past we were able to offer. Thank you for your interest.

Thank you also to those who helped us put up our gazebo. It has been several years since we last used it and had forgotten how big and unwieldy it was. We were struggling somewhat until several kind souls took pity on us and helped us to erect our grand edifice! Thank you everyone, you know who you are.

If you look on our website, address above, you will find the Village Timeline showing significant events over the years associated with the Church, the Village, the Country and the World.

It starts in the mid first century AD recording that coins of this vintage were found in the village and later, that evidence of Roman occupation has been found dating from the second century. Later, the entry for 835 AD reports the snippet that Vikings raiders are once more attacking English settlements. These raids went on for another year culminating in the sacking of London in 836AD.

The next entry of significance to the village and indeed the whole country was the Norman invasion in 1066 followed by the publication of the Domesday book in 1086 wherein is the first record of Elsenham then known as Alsenham, one of the many and varied spellings of the village name over the centuries.

In 1110 we have the first mention of our church when what is now the Chancel and Nave of St Mary's was built, probably on the site of an earlier Saxon church. There then follows another 900 years of happenings that are well worth browsing when you have a spare five minutes, or even ten.

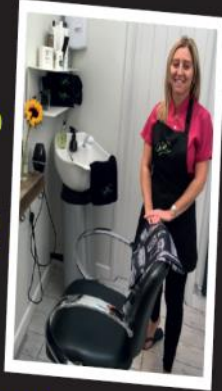
There is also a great deal of other information on the website and it is pleasing to note that we have been contacted by professional researchers looking for information about our village, the latest from Australia.

At our next meeting on Wednesday 14th September (8pm in the Memorial Hall) our speaker will be Ken MacDonald from the 100 Parishes Society. The 100 parishes are a large, attractive, gently-undulating area, around 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

EVHS membership costs just five pounds a year and allows admission to four meetings throughout the year which all feature interesting speakers. Visitors are very welcome to any of our meetings and pay just two pounds per evening.

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On Monday 13th June, eight members of the Garden Group travelled to Boyton Cross to visit the garden created by Mrs Margot Grice. It is a beautifully crafted garden with something to admire and enjoy at every turn and Margot was constantly on hand to answer all their questions. On August 3rd the Garden Group will be visiting the RHS Hyde Hall Flower Show.

On June 15th a coachload of members travelled to Runnymede where they boarded a boat to cruise gently down the Thames to Windsor Bridge and back. They passed the Frogmore Estate, saw, from some distance, Windsor Castle, and much birdlife including herons and a red kite. Then they travelled to Savill Garden in Windsor Great Park where they spent a couple of enjoyable hours wandering through these lovely themed gardens.

At the monthly meeting on Thursday 16th June the talk was one of very local interest, the Gardens of Easton Lodge, given by Gary Matthews, one of the volunteers who have over recent years rescued these lovely gardens from chronic neglect and near ruin. Gary described the life of Daisy, Countess of Warwick, who oversaw the creation of the gardens. Members of the u3a visited these gardens on Thursday 7th July. This talk was followed by the AGM at which three more members joined the committee, one of whom, Louise da Costa, is taking on the role of Secretary. The committee is indebted to the outgoing Secretary, Allan Love, and wish him well with many thanks for his time and efforts over the last few years.

However looking at gardens is not all that we do! So we would like to invite you to our forthcoming **Open Day** to show you what we have to offer..

If you are approaching retirement, contemplating semi-retirement, or are already retired and wondering what to do with your spare time, come along to the **u3a Open Day on Saturday 17th September in St John's Church, Stansted Mountfitchet from 2.00pm**. We would love to show you our wide variety of interest groups, from singers and strummers to pilates and pub lunches. We walk, go to the theatre and to concerts, take day trips and holidays, read books and poetry and philosophise. We are creative, musical and enjoy practising language skills.

You will find tea, coffee, cake and a very warm welcome from all of us who already benefit from the fun, friendship and joy that membership of the u3a brings. Why not make the most of life and join us as we explore new ideas, skills and interests with Stansted Mountfitchet u3a.

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ELSENHAM TENNIS CLUB

By Petra Studholme 📞 814667



Welcome to our new members

Big welcome to all our new members this season, enjoy your tennis and all the activities on offer at ETC. Special shoutout to Yuliia and Bogdan who are here in Elsenham in their guest family from the Ukraine and have thrown themselves into club nights and now league matches. So nice to have you here.

Hire our courts – open to non-members

Try before you join – why not hire our courts to play with friends and family - £2 per adult, £1 for students and 50p for under 18s. You can email us or message on Facebook for availabilities, but please if possible give us 24hrs notice as we need to arrange to open the courts for you.

Club nights Tuesday evening 7.30pm onwards and leisure play Sunday afternoon 2pm – 4pm

Fun times, doubles play for our members is going strong, another reason to join the club.

Beginners and rusty rackets course now available

To find out more, get in touch with him via email: stevesmith865@hotmail.com or call/ text 07790 561 817.

Cardio tennis (trial and join in as non-member)

Cardio tennis is basically a mini workout with a tennis racket in your hand and all done to music... No experience needed it's fun while getting slightly fitter. All age groups invited. Again, please contact Steve directly.

Mixed and Men's teams results in the ESC Summer 2022 League

Epic first win for our Mixed at home to Roydon. Simona & Ollie, Em & Jonathan beat the opposition 10:6 battling hard. Well deserved, well done.

Weekly Activities

Tuesday Tennis Club Night – 8-10.30pm

Wednesday Tots' Tennis Lessons (Pre-school) – 1.45-2.30pm

Wednesday – Club Practice Sessions 7.30-9pm

Friday - Ladies' Morning – from 10am

Saturday Tots' Tennis Sessions (Nursery/reception/key stage 1) – 10.30-12noon

ELSENHAM VILLAGE CAFE

By Sue Waite

The Elsenham Village Cafe in partnership with Elsenham WI is supporting Breast Cancer Now by hosting Afternoon Tea on August 5 from 2pm to 4pm In the Memorial Hall. Lots of tea, cakes, games, prizes. Come and support this amazing charity.

Lost and Found!

There was a navy blue child's Tommy Hilfiger jacket, size 140 left at the Elsenham village fete, it's been posted on Facebook, but to no avail. It is a lovely jacket and we are amazed no one has come forward asking for it!

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NATURAL OUTLOOK ON SOME MIDSUMMER SPECIALS

By Heather Salvidge ☞ 814153



I won't comment on the weather prospects other than to say that not even the forecasters can confidently do that this year.

According to my notes the two recent Augusts have been either very hot and dry or unpleasantly wet, both with occasional downpours. By the end of the fourth week it is dark by 9pm.

By now there is very little birdsong other than pigeons and collared doves calling or cooing and a thrush or blackbird giving a short burst. Usually the swifts are still about for the first few days and then off to Africa. We do tend to have more sparrowhawk activity in the garden but that depends on when they have nested, early or late. Wood pigeons may even start another brood, witnessed by broken white eggshells scattered away from the nest.

We have had fewer butterfly species than we expect to see in the garden, only peacocks, small tortoiseshells, red admirals, holly blues, large whites, brimstones, commas and ringlets. No gatekeepers, small coppers, small heaths or speckled woods. But it has been a hummingbird hawk moth year. They arrived in late June, wafted here on those warm southerly winds and should stay for the summer months, hovering over their chosen flower using their long tongues to get the nectar. Last year there were reports of a garden tiger moth in Orchard Crescent. The orange hind wings have dark spots on them but these are hidden when the forewings "jigsaw" chocolate patches on a cream ground close up. The ruby tiger is much smaller with dull red forewings, mainly charcoal coloured underwings with a scarlet patch at the bottom and scarlet edges as a border.

I think there are four species of deer in Uttlesford; red and roe which are not seen around here and muntjacs and fallow which are. Muntjacs are a recent introduction and have escaped from parkland, spreading rapidly. They are the size of a medium dog, have single pointed horns and tend to be solitary unless with a fawn. They breed the year round and road traffic accidents are not uncommon. Fallow deer were introduced by the Romans but mainly by the Normans. The stags and does spend most of the year in sexually separate small herds, the does with that year's young which were born in June and so by now are only partly grown. Neither the does nor the fawns have antlers but the stags do. In the first year calves start to grow them in April, which is when the older ones shed theirs and start to grow a new set. What is grown depends on age, the first year's antlers are plain and single, begin to branch in the second year and by about five years they flatten out at the top. The new set is grown by the end of August, ready for the rut.

There are muntjac and fallow in Hatfield Forest. They are shy and hang out in the further reaches of the forest, tending not to emerge until near dusk, so while you are there you could look for some of the late summer flowers; buttercups, St John's wort, meadow vetchling, agrimony and bird's foot trefoil.

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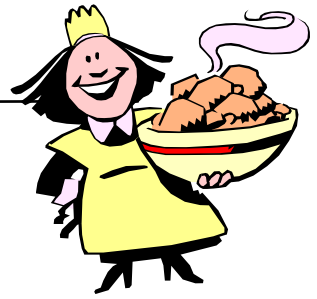
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COOKERY CORNER

By Sue Johnson ☎ 812704

Lemon and blueberries are a gorgeous flavour combination. Mixed with a creamy cheesecake-inspired filling, this really does make a super sweet treat. If you haven't time to make a traditional cheesecake, this tart is the perfect compromise and it is very easy to put together and only takes 20 minutes to bake



LEMON AND BLUEBERRY CHEESECAKE TART (serves 8)

320g sheet ready-rolled puff pastry
1 egg, beaten
225 full-fat soft cheese
2 lemons, zested and 1 juiced
4 tablespoons icing sugar, sieved
3 tablespoons lemon curd
100g blueberries

Unravel the puff pastry on its baking parchment and lightly score a border about 2cm from the edge all the way around the pastry. Brush a little of the beaten egg around the border, then set aside.

Heat the oven to 200°C/fan 180°C/gas 6 with a baking tray inside to heat up, ensuring that the baking tray is large enough to fit the size of the pastry.

Whisk the soft cheese, most of the lemon zest and all of the juice, 3 tablespoons icing sugar and the rest of the beaten egg together in a medium bowl for 1 minute until smooth and slightly thickened.

Spoon the cheesecake mixture over the middle of the tart base, spreading it to the edge of the border using a palette knife or the back of a spoon. Dot teaspoonfuls of the lemon curd on top and, using a cutlery or palette knife, gently swirl the curd into the cheesecake mixture to create a marble effect. Sprinkle the blueberries over evenly, then carefully slide the tart onto the hot baking tray inside the oven and bake for 20-25 minutes until the pastry is golden brown and crisp at the edges.

Leave the tart to cool completely or until just warm. Dust over the remaining icing sugar and sprinkle with the rest of the lemon zest, then cut into rectangles and serve.

CHEF'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

Use two baking trays if you don't have one large enough to fit the whole pastry sheet. Lemon curd stores well in the fridge. However, I guarantee it won't be long before you want to make this delicious recipe again. You can substitute the blueberries for any other berry you have – fresh raspberries are delicious at this time of year.

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HOW TO KILL YOUR FAMILY by *Bella Mackie*
Reviewed by *Marion Giles for Elsenham Book Group*

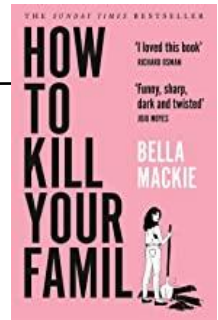
*'They say you can't choose your family.
But you can kill them.*

Meet Grace Bernard.

Daughter, sister, serial killer...

Grace has lost everything.

And she will stop at nothing to get revenge... ' So says the blurb on the back of the book.



'Brilliantly tongue-in-cheek stuff from the Vogue columnist.' *Irish Independent*

'Witty, waspish satire of a murderer with no regrets.' *GRAZIA*

This was the choice of the book group this month, well-liked by most.

We learn, early on, that Grace is in prison, ironically for something she didn't do. However, whilst there, she decides to write her story. So, the story unfolds with who her mother is and, more importantly, who her father is. It is not a plot spoiler to say that he is married and does not want anything to do with Grace or her mother. Needless to say, this has a massive impact on their lives and plants the seeds of bitterness and revenge.

So Grace is hell bent on wiping out her very rich family. She plots to murder her father, his wife, his legitimate daughter, his parents, his brother, sister-in-law and nephew. She plans and she infiltrates herself into their work and lives to get close to her victims. Her murders are planned to be different but to look like accidents so it takes some clever thinking. We also understand that it is her hope that once she is the only one left, she will get all the money. You will have to read the book to find out if all her plans come to fruition.

Bella Mackie presents Grace as a cool, calculated, clever psychopath who is, in turns, irritating and funny. The story is dark but humorous. Grace's attention to detail appears to be foolproof. Her lack of compassion makes her an interesting character although not terribly likeable. The ending is a twister, although a little disappointing. Would be a plot spoiler to say more.

Bella Mackie's writing is full of witty asides and acerbic comments about people's looks, dress, manners and behaviours. Some of the group found the sarky tone of the main character too much.

The story weaves between her current situation, experiences and childhood. The plotting and pace were quite slow in places with too much detail and description that one could call waffle. However, some of it was very good and there was some detail and description which could have been shorter. If you liked the film *Kind Hearts and Coronets*, you will probably enjoy this.

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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:
elsenhamnews@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.

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Womens Institute Secretary	Gill Hathaway	813385
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If you would like your village organisation contact to appear regularly in the magazine, please contact one of the editors, see opposite for details.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Flower Show - Saturday 20 August

U3A Open Day - Saturday 17 September



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Pig Sty Tearoom

All Day Breakfasts & Lunch with both Full Size "Pig Sty" meals as well as smaller "Piglet" size servings and for the youngest among us a "Baby Piglet" menu.

Sunday Lunches with 2 meat choices and a veggie choice every week, including homemade desserts.

Our Afternoon and Cream Teas are fast becoming legendary, freshly made Sandwiches, Scones & both Home Made Cakes and Belgian Patisserie.



If you would like to order from us or book a table, please call us on 01279 248 201 or email orders@cliffords.info