

Elsenham News



ELSENHAM TENNIS CLUB

Elsenham Tennis Club is celebrating
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SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20 from 14.00 – 17.00 hrs
for tennis fun, festivities & refreshments – Everyone welcome



See page 17 for contacts and further details.

elsenhamnews@hotmail.co.uk

August 2026

Elsenham Village Regular Monthly or Quarterly Activities

Parish Council 1st **Monday** of month 7.45pm (excl. Bank Holidays) Memorial Hall
 Elsenham EAGLES 4th **Monday** of month 7.30-9pm Bowls and Social Club
 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
 Natter Night 2nd **Tuesday** of month 7.30pm The Crown
 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
 Dementia Friendly Afternoon 4th **Wednesday** of month 2-3.30pm The Crown
 Women's Institute 3rd **Thursday** of month 7.45pm Memorial Hall
 Church Lunch Club 2nd & 4th **Friday** of month 12.30pm Memorial Hall
 Women's Wellness Breakfast Club last Friday of month 9.20am Bowls & Social
 Elsenham Farmers Market last **Saturday** of month 12.30-2.30pm Village Hall

August 2026 diary

Sat 1	Country Music Night	Bowls & Social Club 8pm
Mon 3	Parish Council Meeting	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Tues 4 & 18	Elsenham Community Choir	Village Hall 7pm
Tues 11 & 25	Life Drawing	Village Hall 7.30pm
Tues 11	Natter Night	The Crown 7.30pm
Fri 14 & 28	Church Lunch Club	Memorial Hall 12.30pm
Sat 15	Flower Show	Memorial Hall 2.30-4.30pm
Sat 15	Bingo	Bowls & Social Club 7.30 for 8pm
Thurs 20	Elsenham WI	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Mon 24	Elsenham Eagles	Bowls & Social Club 7.15/7.30pm
Weds 26	Dementia Friendly afternoon	The Crown 2.-3.30pm
Sat 29	Farmers Market	Village Hall 12.30 – 2.30pm



Mobile Library
Every third Saturday stopping at Glebe End
9.30am to 10am Next visits: 8 & 29 August 2026

Elsenham Village Regular Weekly Activities

Day	Time	Activity	Location
Monday	9.30-10.30am	Zumba	Memorial Hall
	10.30-11.30am	Health walk	Start at De Mandeville Green
	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)
Tuesday	9.30-11.30am	Village Café Coffee	Memorial Hall
	12.15-1pm	Touchpoint Food Share	Memorial Hall
	4.45-5.45pm	Rainbows	Memorial Hall (term-time)
	4.45-5.45pm	Beavers	Ugley Village Hall (term-time)
	6-7.15pm	Cubs (Wolf Pack)	Ugley 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	9.45-11.30	Tots and Toddlers	Memorial Hall <i>Term Time Only</i>
	5.30 & 7pm	Slimming World	Memorial Hall
	6.30-7.15pm	Women's Strength and Mobility	Village Hall
	7-9pm	Scouts	Ugley Village Hall (term-time)
	7.30pm	Aerobics	Elsenham Village Hall
Thursday	9-10am	Teddy Bear Music	Memorial Hall (term-time)
	9.30-10.45am	Buffy Playbus	Crocus Drive (see website)
	6-7.15pm	Cubs (Bear Pack)	Ugley Village Hall (term-time)
	6.45-7.45pm	Jump Fit	Elsenham Village Hall
Friday	10-11am	Little Fishes	Memorial Hall (term-time)
Saturday	8.15am-1pm	Tarte au Citroen	Playing Field
	8.45am-12pm	Youth boys & girls football	Playing Field
	9-11.15am	Forte Dance Class	Memorial Hall <i>Term Time Only</i>
	8.45-9.30am	Little Kickers Mighty	Village Hall (term time)
	9.35-10.20am	Little Kickers Junior	Village Hall (term time)
	10.25-11.10am	Little Kickers Tots	Village Hall (term time)



NEXT FARMERS MARKET - 29 August 2026

Our Market runs on the last Saturday of every month, but just to make things easier, these are the dates for the rest of 2026: -

SEPTEMBER 26

OCTOBER 31

NOVEMBER 28 (*all things festive*)

Did you know that living in close proximity to a Farmers Market can increase the value of your home, as it's seen as a really positive selling feature, so why not make the most of ours?

Our stallholders can vary from month to month, and their products can be seasonal, but the quality is always tip top and there is something for everyone; 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.

We have a great range of products, including eggs, honey, apple juice, cakes, savoury pastries, local meat products, healthy Kombucha, dog treats, chutneys and jams, plants, fish, whole foods and spices, bread, cheese... The list is long, and the majority is locally produced.

Not sure what you're after? Why not come for fresh barista coffee & cake and have a browse at the produce whilst you're here or sit at a table and watch the world go by...it's a win win!

Most of the produce is homemade, so not only do you get to treat yourself to these fantastic goodies once a month, but you are also supporting local businesses and coming together with our fabulous community; you might even make a new friend! We look forward to welcoming you.

Plenty of parking and no charge for entry; just enjoy and immerse yourself in all the gorgeous produce!

Best wishes
Elsenham Farmers Market Team

THE NEWS REPORT

From The Editors



Many of us will recall the summer of '66 and what a scorcher that was. Is 2026 going to be remembered in the same way? One thing we can be certain of, in heat like this we must all be very careful not to be the cause of a fire that is likely to spread very rapidly. See what the Stansted Fire Brigade have to say on the matter on page 21.

Page 21 and the front cover highlight a terrific milestone of a different sort. The Tennis Club will be celebrating 50 years! What an achievement, and we wish them all success for another 50 years.

There is always something to celebrate when living in Elsenham with all its diverse clubs and associations. We have the Bowls Club, the Cricket Club and the youth football teams among many.

Don't forget to get along to the Memorial Hall on Saturday 15 this month for the annual Elsenham Flower Show Society. It is always a great event with so much to see. The reminder is on page 27.

We have a new bus service provider servicing the village and let's hope we can celebrate them in the future. There has been some changes to the schedule and we have reproduced the new timetable on pages 28 and 29. Our apologies that the quality is not the best, but it is all we could get.

Until next month, we hope you have a great August and the summer continues to bless us with plenty of sunshine and warmth.

The Editorial Team
Elsenham News

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As we enjoy the summer months, the recent spell of hot weather has presented a few challenges. Our grass cutting contractor has been unable to cut some areas as scheduled due to the conditions. These areas have been noted and will be attended to as soon as the weather allows. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

I am pleased to share that I have recently completed the Financial Introduction to Local Council Administration (FILCA) qualification. This nationally recognised qualification provides parish clerks with a strong foundation in local council finance administration and governance, helping to ensure that the Parish Council continues to operate effectively and in line with best practice.

The playing field will be a hive of activity over the coming weeks as we welcome local primary school leavers' celebrations, along with an end-of-term Colour Run. We hope everyone taking part has a fantastic time and enjoys making lasting memories at this important community facility.

The Parish Council has submitted an application to the Football Foundation for funding to support the ongoing maintenance and improvement of the football pitches. We look forward to updating residents on the outcome of the application in due course.

A small number of complaints have recently been received regarding overflowing bins in the play area. Following inspection, only one bin was found to be full, while the three other bins nearby still had plenty of capacity. We kindly ask everyone to make use of all the bins available to help keep the play area clean and enjoyable for everyone.

Many residents will be aware that the illegal car park has recently attracted media attention. We would like to reassure the community that the Parish Council has been working tirelessly behind the scenes, contacting and liaising with the relevant agencies in an effort to prevent the site from continuing to trade. While this is a complex issue involving a number of organisations, please be assured that the Parish Council is doing everything within its powers to help bring about a resolution.

As always, thank you for your continued support and cooperation. We wish everyone an enjoyable and safe summer.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 3 August at 7.45pm in the Memorial Hall. All residents are welcome.

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Craig Pike



DEVELOPMENT DEVELOPMENTS

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



Last month, I related that Countryside had beaten the deadline for the detailed application for 130 homes in the field south of the Crown by just eleven days through submitting an obviously inadequate application. This month, some statutory consultees have responded. The views of Essex Highways, UDC Conservation and UDC Urban Design are mostly highly critical. If they were run together it would be enough to fill my space here every month from now until Christmas. I will try to highlight a very few of the lowlights of the application as they see it.

Developers are of course primarily concerned with making their homes for sale as attractive as possible. The proposals regarding the two blocks of apartments (or, as I would say, 'flats') come in for particularly severe criticism. The Urban Design Officer has multiple objections. He finds the apartments 'large, bulky and visually dominant', accentuated by their position on a higher part of the site, and indistinguishable from each other in appearance. There is also a lack of both communal open space and private amenity space, with the surrounding environment dominated by car parking. The Conservation Officer also uses the term 'bulky' and refers to the elevated position. She is aware of the sensitive position of the site in view of the agglomeration of nearby heritage assets. It would be fair to say that she adopts a condescending tone: 'The design team should review examples of high-quality apartment buildings successfully integrated into comparable heritage-sensitive settings and reconsider both the architecture of the buildings and their surrounding landscape treatment'.

When it comes to the proposed detailed layout of the development, there are again multiple criticisms. Highways' objections run from a. to s., many with sub-sections, and mostly concerned with layout in one way or another. They point out, for example, that some residents would be blocked from accessing their back gardens (and therefore their cycle storage), in several instances by other residents' parking and in one case by an unhelpful brick wall. The Urban Design Officer finds that the proposed play space is unduly modest in scale. The proposed orchard is a positive element, but further information is needed as to its long-term management; Stansted Airport also have doubts, pointing out that fruit is an attractive food source for birds and therefore hazardous to aviation.

As before, the Conservation Officer can find little to commend and much to condemn: 'the view towards St Mary's Church could have become a defining feature of the layout and a key organising principle for the development'; 'The historic environment presents a significant design opportunity which could have been utilised more effectively'. She wants something special on a site with special features; instead of which, in her sniffiest comment, 'Many aspects of the layout could be replicated on a generic housing site' - such as several others in Elsenham, for instance.

The developers won't be in any hurry. But they have the precious asset of outline approval, and they won't want to throw it away.

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ELSENHAM VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

By Mike Rea, Secretary ☎ 813634 ✉ evhs12@hotmail.co.uk
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As I write these notes the temperature outside is thirty degrees plus and thoughts turn to ways of keeping cool. Well, they say it's all in the mind so a look at the photos below might help cool you down. Enjoy.

(Right) In the Winter of 1963 heavy snow caused many delays on the railways. Elsenham Station was badly affected with drifts up to twelve feet high (3.5M) covering the station. It took nearly a week to get the trains running again. The photo is from the Herts and Essex Observer taken on 20th January 1963.



(Left) Taken from the Stansted Road bridge over the M11 this photo appeared in the Daily Telegraph of 1st February 2003. Drivers were stuck on the motorway for up to 24 hours when snow and ice brought traffic to a standstill. Locals provided teas and coffees to the stranded drivers.

(Right) On an unknown date in 2022 a snowman appears in the Memorial Gardens.



Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th September at 8pm in the Memorial Hall. Our speaker for the evening will be Martin Ratcliffe who is returning to speak about Matching Airfield. His previous talk on the Hatfield Heath Prisoner of War Camp was very well received so we are looking forward to another good evening.

As always all are welcome and visitors pay just £2.00. We look forward to seeing you there.



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Most importantly, we are open **EVERY DAY** until 5pm, so there is no excuse for you not to come and see us! Entry is £6 (under 1s 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 or in our camper/caravan paddock where there is lots of space and lovely scenery. Both options include entry to the farm where you can meet our lovely animals and their babies..... all for just £25 a night AND on your doorstep! Please book via our website - [Daisy May's Farm](http://www.daisymaysfarm.org) and check our Facebook page for up-and-coming events and exciting activities.

There really is so much to do and see at the farm and our animals just love seeing you all. So do be sure to come and see us over the summer. We can't wait to see you.

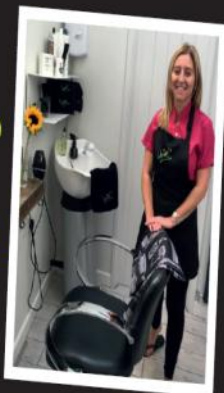


We **always** need help in so many ways, particularly when there is **so** much to do. So if you have a little time to spare, **please** get in touch, we would **love** to hear from you. Please contact ☎ 07747 787973 or take a look at our website 🌐 www.daisymaysfarm.org to find out more. Thank you so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

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ELSENHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

By Moyra Jackson ☎ 647351



How are you all coping with the heat? The heat I don't mind but the resulting hosepipe ban is challenging. I am sure we will all be reaching for books on drought hardy plants for the coming years.

Our meeting on August 20 will be "A Potted History of the WI" by the wonderful Federation Past Chair, Jan Curtis. Jan's specialist subject is the WI and having been an Advisor in Essex for many years there is no one better placed to tell us about our origins. The competition will be something beginning with 'H.'

Our meetings over the next few months are:

September 17 – Members Evening
October 15 – The Essex Witch Trials with Peggy Griffin
November 19 – Fyfield Handbell Ringing Group

Next month we will be joining many Essex Members for a Literary Lunch at Hunters Meet on the 9th with Author Alison Bruce, non-members are welcome. Please contact me if you are interested. We will also be joining a four federation get-together for WI Day on the 16th at Audley End House and Gardens. It's always good to catch up with WI friends at this event and English Heritage is an excellent host.

As a member you get all our monthly meetings plus the opportunity to come to our many sub-group activities. We accept new or returning members throughout the year and you can be sure of a warm welcome, plus, if you are really lucky, some delicious cake.



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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UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Tax Support scheme consultation

Uttlesford residents can have their say on how much support we should give to people who might struggle to pay their Council Tax bill.

The Local Council Tax Support scheme (LCTS), or Council Tax Reduction (CTR), is designed to help the most vulnerable. For 2027/28, we're proposing to maintain the current schemes on the same basis as this year.

This means that we are proposing to:

- freeze the contribution rate so that the minimum amount that LCTS claimants pay towards their Council Tax bill will be kept at 12.5%. This remains the lowest contribution rate in Essex
- continue to protect pensioners, vulnerable and disabled residents and their carers on a low income. Their minimum contribution rate will remain at 0%

We want to know what you think of the proposals.

The easiest way to do this is via the [online questionnaire](#) which can be found on the Uttlesford District Council website, or by emailing any comments to consultation@uttlesford.gov.uk.

For people who do not have access to the internet, paper copies of the questionnaire are available by calling 01799 510510.

The consultation closes at **5:00pm on Monday 14 September 2026**. [Find out more about the LCTS scheme and how to have your say.](#)

ELSENHAM TENNIS CLUB

By Petra Studholme ☎814667



Everyone welcome. Join us on Sunday September 20 to help us celebrate 50 years as an Elsenham Club! Just to liven things up even more why not:

- * Bring wooden racquet (*or any racquet you have; we do have spares to borrow plus balls*)
- * Come dressed in 1970s kit (*please wear trainers if you want to play*)
- * Hear the history of ETC and find the originally excavated earth



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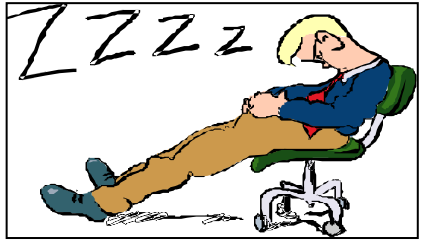
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Goodbye “Stephensons”, Hello “Central Connect”.

The arrival of a “Stephensons” white bus has been a welcome sight for bus passengers for some time. Everything is changing. A new operator has acquired the operating licence. From July 26 “Central Connect” are running the service.

There have been FEW CHANGES TO THE SERVICE from July 26th. A couple of earlier buses from **Stortford** have been removed, the 06.00 and the 06.30. The 13.30 has been moved to 14.00 hours and later the 18.15 and the 19.30 have been removed. The 18.45 7A Bus has been added. From **Stansted Airport** the 08.49 no longer runs and both the 14.40 and 17.05 have been withdrawn.

The new “Central Connect” Timetable is across pages 28 and 29.

One can only hope we get the same good service from “Central” that we got from “Stephensons”.

I am pleased to relate that no bus driver loses his job with these changes. Connor and Chris will be driving a different route and we wish them all the best for the future.

Ray Franklin (Transport Representative,
Elsenham Parish Council).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ray Franklin'.

GARDEN HINT *By Sue Johnson*

Freeze surplus beans, sweetcorn, tomatoes and berries. Chop herbs such as basil, mint and coriander and freeze with a little water in ice cube trays. Make sauces and soups, freezing them for quick winter meals.

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We hope everyone is enjoying the extreme heat we are experiencing this Summer and are keeping safe and hydrated.

This has seen Stansted's off-road vehicle mobilised to a spate of wildfire incidents due to the dry and hot conditions we were experiencing in June this continued at the start of July (Image below). The off road vehicle so far has supported incidents all over Essex and has even supported incidents in neighbouring London.

The crew at Stansted have been sparing a thought for our colleagues in Europe however who have been experiencing incredibly hard and arduous conditions with the extreme temperatures they are facing, and our thoughts go out to all the personnel involved and their families who are working in these conditions to protect their communities.

We still do not know if we may have another small spell of extreme heat into August but it's always healthy for the community to be aware of the risks during these potential periods. We as always need your help during these conditions so please see the safety advice link below which is displayed on ECFRS website. It's also really helpful for us to have accurate location information so if you do live in a rural area we would advise everyone to download the WHAT3WORDS app. It's a free app that gives you a 3 metre location square and really improves the attendance of crews to get to the seat of a fire quickly:

[Stay Safe Essex this summer | Essex County Fire and Rescue Service \(essex-fire.gov.uk\)](#)



Lastly as always the crews continue to visit homes and carry out home fire safety visits. These are free to any Essex resident and can be booked on our website (Link below). This is a government and ECFRS initiative to get a working smoke alarm in every residential dwelling so please feel free to get in touch.

[Home Fire Safety \(essex-fire.gov.uk\)](#)

Stay safe and best wishes from all at Stansted Fire Station

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NEWPORT & DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

By Sandra Honour, Programme Secretary

✉ ugleybunchflowerclub@gmail.com

FB: *Ugley Bunch Flower Clubs*



Goodness, our flowers and gardens have certainly been suffering in the recent heatwave, not to speak of us!!

Fortunately, our June meeting came before the very high temperatures and we welcomed Naomi Wells with her title 'Miss Cullimore'. I will leave you guessing as to who is, was or might be 'Miss Cullimore' but Naomi's demonstration entertained us with many stories and audience participation. Her arrangements varied from traditional to contemporary and spanned the colour palette.

We did, however, brave the heatwave with a gazebo at the Henham Fete promoting our Flower Club (pictured right). We showed how the colour of various flowers could be altered by standing them in a food colouring mixture, test your garden plant knowledge with our flower quiz and create your own posy or jam jar arrangement with cut garden flowers and foliage. This was particularly popular with children!



Thanks must go to Sue Ellis-Callow for her beautiful arrangements and to Jill Hunt and Shirley Wilcock for their contributions on the day. Thank you to all those lovely people who visited us and showed such interest in our club and its activities. We certainly hope to welcome some of you in the future.

Our next meeting will be on the 12th August, 2pm, where we will be enjoying our annual cream tea and mini demonstration. We would love you to join us. Tickets are £10 for members and £12.50 for visitors and must be booked in advance via our email.



Alternatively, our September meeting will be in the evening of the 16th with Lorraine Gagen and 'Into the Wardrobe'.

Our meetings are every third Wednesday of the month at 7pm for 7.30pm start at the Ugley Village Hall, Cambridge Road CM22 6HR.

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Quietly getting on with things

We are surrounded by a quiet army of people dedicated to making our community work as well as possible. The postman who sings merrily on his round greeting everyone he meets, or the parish councillor tirelessly keeping tabs on concerns in the locality. What they have in common is altruism - giving their time and attention to others to help lives be better. If you take part in a class or attend a talk in the u3a you know it is on the back of others giving their time and energy to organise it all. Chair, Dame Pauline Green is one such person who, after a highly successful, fixed 3-year term as Chair of Stansted Mountfitchet u3a, stepped down at the monthly meeting. Pauline will continue in many roles at the u3a, but the role of chair is now passing to another individual willing to give of herself, Linda Huggett.

All monthly meetings include an absorbing talk, most recently a wonderful catalogue of photography of the wildlife of Britain and Europe by Mary and Graham Brace. Carefully curated by quiet experts the variety of talks are a real draw to many members.

Giving time to others can also be seen in the arranging of a lovely visit to Blunt's Hall, a restored 3-acre, Victorian garden in Witham, Essex. Owners Alan and Lesley Gamblin showed the group around their estate explaining its transition from working farm to the house and garden of today. The years of work to save the garden from neglect were carefully explained along with numerous examples of the patient nurturing of the land to create beauty. The high standard of the tour was topped off with a magnificent tea described enthusiastically as 'easily on a par with Fortnum and Mason!'

If you go to the website (www.stansted.u3asite.uk) you will find many more examples of people organising fun and learning for Stansted retired or semi-retired. Take a look, join in and enjoy!

Uttlesford Community Supermarket

We are so sorry to announce that our Community Supermarket project has now ended.

Working alongside communities across Uttlesford to address food insecurity and support residents has been a real privilege. We want to thank our wonderful customers, partners, volunteers and supporters who have continually encouraged and motivated the team over the past months.

For those who are in need of food support, please visit uttlesford.gov.uk for details of the Uttlesford Community Response Hub.



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As I write this it is 30°C outside, and not much cooler in my office. A strange time to be writing about soup? Well, yes, but please read on.

Some years ago the late Avril Braidwood, a much-loved member of the Women's Institute and the Fabric Fund, instituted her "Soup Kitchen". For this, members of the WI, the Fabric Fund and anyone else interested made soups, cakes, bread etc. Avril co-ordinated it all and threw open her house to serve it. The village gathered in Avril's house, paid a nominal sum and enjoyed delicious food and a good old natter. The monies were divided between the WI and the Fabric Fund giving a welcome boost to funds.

Well, we have decided that it is time that "Avril's Soup Kitchen" was reinstated and the WI and the Fabric Fund are organising such a feast sometime in autumn. The details are yet to be finalised, but as usual keep your eyes on "Elsenham News". And what if we have another heatwave in the autumn? No problem. I have an excellent recipe for gazpacho, the delicious iced soup from Spain.

Just to continue with seasonally inappropriate writings, advance notice that our famous Christmas Tree Festival will be held this year over the weekend of 5th/6th of December. Again further details will be announced in future editions of "Elsenham News".

I'll sign off now. By the time you read this we will be in the school holidays. I just hope that the weather will be "appropriate"!



Elsenham Flower Show Society SATURDAY AUGUST 15

IN THE MEMORIAL HALL & MARQUEE (ON THE PLAYING FIELD)

Stansted Airport – Bishop's Stortford

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MONDAYS TO SATURDAYS

from 26th July 2026

Service: Notes:	Sch	7A	7A	7A	7A
Stansted Airport, Coach Station, Bay 13	0707	0920	1020	1135	1245
Molehill Green, opp Molehill Green Road	0712	0925	1025	1140	1250
Elsenham, Waltham Hall Rd, opp DeSalts Hotel	0714	0927	1027	1142	1252
Elsenham, Hanham Road, The Crown PH	0718	0931	1031	1146	1256
Henham, Mill Road, opp Vernon's Close	0721	0934	1034	1149	1259
Henham, High Street, Woodend Green	0723	0936	1036	1151	1301
Henham, Church Street, Church	0725	0938	1038	1153	1303
Elsenham, Old Mead Rd, Railway Station	0730	0943	1043	1158	1308
Elsenham, Stansted Road, opp Leigh Drive	0731	0747	0944	1044	1159
Stansted Mountfitchet, Lower Street	0736	0752	0949	1049	1204
Stansted Mountfitchet, adj St Mary's Drive	0738	0754	0951	1051	1206
Stansted Mountfitchet, Chapel Hill	0742	0758	0955	1055	1210
Stansted Mountfitchet, Croasdale Road				1100	
Stansted Mountfitchet, Clarence Road				1102	
Birchanger, opp Bradley Common	0748	0804	1001	1105	1216
B Stortford, Dunmow Road, Shortcroft	0751	0820	1004	1108	1219
B Stortford, Dunmow Road, Nags Head PH	0753	1006	1110	1221	1335
B Stortford, H & Essex Hospital Grounds	0755	1008	1112	1223	1337
Bishop's Stortford Interchange	0803	1016	1120	1231	1345

NOTES: - Near Railway Station - Interchange with Express Coaches - For the Airport Sch - Schooldays Only

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<https://elsenhamcommunityassociation.org.uk/assets/documents/2026-bus-timetable>

Stansted Airport – Bishop's Stortford

7•7A

MONDAYS TO SATURDAYS

from 26th July 2026

	Service:		7A	7A	7A	7A				
	Notes:	Sch								
Stansted Airport, Coach Station, Bay 13 ➡➡➡	0707		0920	1020	1135	1245	1350	1510	1605	1735 1820
Molehill Green, opp Molehill Green Road	0712		0925	1025	1140	1250	1355	1518	1610	1743 1825
Elsenham, Waltham Hall Rd, opp DeSalts Hotel	0714		0927	1027	1142	1252	1357	1520	1612	1745 1827
Elsenham, Henham Road, The Crown PH	0718		0931	1031	1146	1256	1401	1526	1616	1751 1831
Henham, Mill Road, opp Vernon's Close	0721		0934	1034	1149	1259	1404	1532	1619	1757 1834
Henham, High Street, Woodend Green	0723		0936	1036	1151	1301	1406	1534	1621	1759 1836
Henham, Church Street, Church	0725		0938	1038	1153	1303	1408	1537	1623	1802 1838
Elsenham, Old Mead Rd, Railway Station ➡	0730		0943	1043	1158	1308	1413	1541	1628	1806 1843
Elsenham, Stansted Road, opp Leigh Drive	0731 0747		0944	1044	1159	1309	1414	1542	1629	1807 1844
Stansted Mountfitchet, Lower Street	0736 0752		0949	1049	1204	1314	1419	1548	1634	1813 1849
Stansted Mountfitchet, adj St Mary's Drive	0738 0754		0951	1051	1206	1316	1421	1549	1636	1814 1851
Stansted Mountfitchet, Chapel Hill	0742 0758		0955	1055	1210	1320	1425	1554	1640	1819 1855
Stansted Mountfitchet, Crossdottle Road					1100		1325		1556	1821
Stansted Mountfitchet, Clarence Road					1102		1327		1558	1823
Birchanger, opp Bradley Common	0748 0804		1001	1105	1216	1330	1431	1601	1646	1826 1901
B Stortford, Dunmow Road, Shortcroft	0751 0820		1004	1108	1219	1333	1434	1604	1649	1829 1904
B Stortford, Dunmow Road, Nags Head PH	0753		1006	1110	1221	1335	1436	1605	1651	1830 1906
B Stortford, H & Essex Hospital Grounds	0755		1008	1112	1223	1337	1438	1607	1653	1832 1908
Bishop's Stortford Interchange ➡	0803		1016	1120	1231	1345	1446	1612	1705	1837 1916

NOTES: ➡ - Near Railway Station ➡➡ - Interchange with Express Coaches ➡ - For the Airport Sch - Schooldays Only

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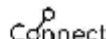
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THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

By Ken McDonald, Secretary

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Over the last four years, the Society has been able to make financial contributions towards several worthwhile local initiatives. This has been possible because of the gradual increase in the number of Society members and their generosity. The Society is a registered charity and can recover Gift Aid in respect of subscriptions and donations received from people who are taxpayers. The Society incurs only modest costs so is left with funds that can be usefully employed, making a difference to local communities.

It has become our practice once a year to invite applications for grants. The invitation has been sent to all organisations who have been members of the Society for at least three years; most of these are parish councils. The latest round of applications was recently assessed by the Society's trustees, and they awarded four grants with a total value of £7,000. In assessing each application, we seek to ensure that it satisfies our charitable objectives, gives public benefit, has been thoroughly considered, is realistic and represents value for money.



Often, our grant enables a worthwhile project that would otherwise simply not happen. On other occasions, our grant triggers some matching funding. Sometimes, the project is not straightforward, and we don't see the outcome for some time; the Society retains sufficient funds to ensure the grants can be paid when appropriate. Where possible, we ask the beneficiary to acknowledge the Society's financial assistance.



Projects that have already been completed with our financial help include new and refurbished village signs and information panels, churchyard improvements, community gardens with seating, refurbishment of a war memorial, an instructive video on pargetting, and digitisation of a photo archive. We look forward to adding to this list as other approved projects are completed.

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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Thought For The Month *by Louis Wilson*

As I write this, the nation has been gripped (again) by World Cup fever. On July 1, an audience of 16.3 million people watched England beat DR Congo. For most of the game, it looked as though England were finished, but Harry Kane scored twice in the last 15 minutes to bring England back from the brink.

How satisfying! Presumably, 16.3 million people went to bed happy that night. I know I did. But even at its best can football really satisfy? Can anything really bear that weight of expectation?

In the first book of the Bible, Genesis, there is a character called Jacob. His life is empty until he falls in love with a beautiful young woman called Rachel. All the longings of his heart are fastened on her. He thinks: if only I had Rachel, it would fix things, at last something would be right in my life (and we could substitute for Rachel a job, a house, if only England won the World Cup....).

Jacob goes to work for Rachel's father Laban. The only reward he wants is Rachel. She has an older sister, Leah, but that's irrelevant to Jacob.

Such is his obsession, he works seven years to get Rachel. The wedding day finally comes around. Lots of people, big feast, the beautiful bride is heavily veiled. In the evening, Jacob finally gets his hands on the woman of his dreams and the marriage is consummated. But when morning came, there was Leah (Genesis 29: 25)!

Laban had swapped his daughters! Jacob's emptiness has made him

vulnerable to idolising Rachel. And idolising Rachel has made him vulnerable to being terribly deceived.

He is aghast. He has no interest in Leah. So Laban says: don't worry, finish the celebrations for this marriage, and next week, you can marry Rachel as well! But it will cost you another seven years of work.

And so begins a triangle of unfulfilled longings. Leah longs for Jacob's love, but Jacob loves Rachel. Rachel longs for children, but can't have them, while Leah can't stop! With every child, Leah hopes things will be different: now my husband will love me, she thinks. But Jacob longs for Rachel. And Rachel longs for children.

It's all a powerful reminder that human relationships, marriages, friendships, football teams, success - these are fantastic, brilliant, things - but they were never designed to bear the weight that we put on them.

When we look to another human being - or to any other thing - to provide what we long for, it will always disappoint us or it will break. The only love object that can bear that kind of weight, the only one who can live up to that kind of expectation, is God - the one for whom we were made.

Ironically it is Leah, the girl nobody wanted, who comes to understand this. She realises eventually that looking to Jacob is futile - the Lord God is her true bridegroom, the husband of the husbandless, and the one who alone can bear the weight of our deepest longings.

CHURCH EVENTS IN OUR VILLAGES AUGUST 2026

Church Services

Sunday 2nd August

10:30 All Together All Age Service,
Elsenham Village (School) Hall

Sunday 9th August

10:30 All Together Service,
Henham Church
18:00 Sunday@6, Henham Church
With Supper

Sunday 16th August

10:30 All Together Communion Service
Ugley Church

Sunday 23rd August

10:30 All Together Service,
Elsenham Church

Sunday 30th August

10:30 All Together Service,
Henham Church

**Sunday@6 Services resume on
September 6 when Youth Groups
also resume**

Other Regular Events

MID-WEEK:

Start the Week with Prayer
Old Frank's, Elsenham 9.30am
Mondays: 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th

Tuesday Club, Henham Church
For anyone of retirement age or wanting
company. Tuesdays: 4th
(1st Tuesday of each month)

Church Lunch Club
Elsenham Memorial Hall 12.30pm
Fridays: (2nd & 4th Friday of the month):
14th & 28th

Sunday lunchtime picnic:
(All welcome) Bring a packed lunch and
folding chair after the All Together
Services to:

The Vicarage, Henham
16th August

St Helen's, High Street, Stebbing, CM6
3SE
30th August

Henham, Elsenham & Ugley Churches



For further details on everything going
on at Henham, Elsenham & Ugley
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Tuesday CLUB
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ELSENHAM BOWLS AND SOCIAL CLUB

 www.elsenhambc.org.uk

By David Thomas



Our new BowlsBash events are taking shape and proving to be a lot of fun for players.

BowlsBash is particularly suited for people that are new to bowls. The new game format is a fast-paced format featuring two short games and a decider if needed. Points are scored for each of the three placed bowls, touching the jack, and when Power Play is activated, the score is doubled. It's fun, easy to play, and open to everyone - come and join us!

Our next Music Night is on August 1 with Country Music with Pete George. Tickets are £8 for members and £13 for non-members and are available from the club bar or by calling Trevor on 07445 437437. Music Nights coming up include a Disco on September 12.

Bingo sessions coming up are on August 15 and September 19 at 7:30pm for an 8:00pm start. Darts sessions run on a Thursday evening throughout the year.

Remember to join us on a Friday for rollups starting at 6pm, coaching from 5pm, and of course BowlsBash! Our social evening continues for all from 7pm.

For full details about Elsenham Bowls Club including membership and our opening times please see our website www.elsenhambc.org.uk.



Mind in West Essex – Free Befriending Support

Feeling lonely or isolated?

Mind in West Essex, the local mental-health and emotional-wellbeing charity, offers a free Befriending Support Service for adults living in Uttlesford, Harlow and Epping Forest. We match people with trained local volunteers for friendly chats and regular contact – by phone, online or in person. Many people tell us that having someone to talk to makes a real difference and gives them something to look forward to each week.

We're also looking for new volunteer befrienders. If you can spare an hour or two a week, befriending is enjoyable, rewarding and a great way to support someone who may be feeling alone.

To find out more or get involved, visit mindinwestessex.org.uk/befriending-support, call 0800 755 5173 or email volunteering@mindinwestessex.org.uk



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STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

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



The club has had a great month in both senior and junior sections. The sun has been shining (too hot for me), wickets have been true and outfields have been fast. The 1st XI had good wins over Stansted, High Beach, and Thorley and this leaves them 3rd in the HEBL Division 1 table. The 2nd XI have had wins over Hockerill II and Thorley II which leaves them in a comfortable mid table position. More importantly the younger players are developing very nicely against Thorley II the opening batsmen were both 15 and the number 3, 14 (Alfie Shaw scored his first 50 for the club). Another success for the club was fielding two teams on a Sunday, one played Newport the other Great Canfield.

Plenty of matches for all age groups for our juniors and a huge thank you to our managers, coaches, and parents who continue to do an incredible job for the club. The juniors are looking forward to a Presentation Day and a 2-day summer cricket camp. We take children from the age of 5 both boys and girls. We would love to run a girls' section but we do need a coach. Maybe you have a daughter who loves cricket and would give coaching a go?

Loyalty and dedication should be important to all of us and with that in mind the club would like to congratulate our head groundsman's wife, Carol Maule on working for the NHS for 43 years serving in the same local hospital all that time. She was recognised for that achievement recently with an invitation to a reception at 10 Downing Street to celebrate 78 years of the NHS.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

No notices this month.

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

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

Vicar	01279 850480 louis.wilson@heuchurch.co.uk	Rev. Louis Wilson
Curate	petetibbott@heuchurch.co.uk	Pete Tibbott
Church Office	01279 814285 office@heuchurch.co.uk	Anna Hicks
Church website	https://heuchurch.org	

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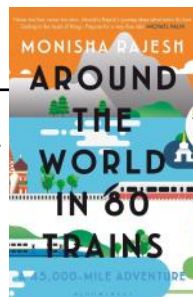
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AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 TRAINS BY MONISHA RAJESH

Reviewed by Marion Giles for Elsenham Book Group

‘From the cloud-skimming heights of Tibet’s Qinghai railway to silk-sheeted splendour on the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express, *Around the World in 80 Trains* is a celebration of the glory of train travel and a witty and irreverent look at the world.



Packing up her rucksack – and her fiancé, Jem – Monisha Rajesh embarks on an unforgettable adventure that takes her from London’s St Pancras station to the vast expanses of Russia and Mongolia, North Korea, Canada, Kazakhstan, and beyond. The journey is one of constant movement and mayhem, as the pair strike up friendships and swap stories with the hilarious, irksome and ultimately endearing travellers they meet on board, all while taking in some of the earth’s most breathtaking views. ...’ *So says the blurb on the back of the book.*

Monisha Rajesh has chosen one of the best ways of seeing the world. Never too fast, never too slow, her journey does what trains do best. Getting to the heart of things. Prepare for a very fine ride *Michael Palin*

The Amazon AI says: Customers find this travel book engaging and easy to read, with brilliant writing that captures the joy of train travel. The narrative features series of recollections of interesting places, and customers appreciate its informative content, with one review highlighting its detailed coverage of North Korea. Customers describe the book as witty and fascinating to travel vicariously through, particularly enjoying the chapter on Korea.

This was the choice of the book group this month.

Monisha and her fiancé, Jem decide to travel the world by train - a journey that takes them through parts of Europe, Russia, Mongolia, China, Vietnam, Thailand, Japan, Canada, North America, North Korea, Tibet and Kazakhstan. Not quite the world but a good chunk of it.

The book is pleasant to read. It would have been useful if there had been more details on the route and a map would have been helpful as there are only occasional clues as to where next journey might be. There isn’t much explanation of the journeys and some are just mentioned in passing although her love for train travel does come across.

For those who don’t like to travel themselves but are interested in other countries and cultures then this is a method of travelling vicariously without the dysentery!

There are amusing stories about characters they meet and places they stop. Their views about some of the countries are their opinions and other travellers may not have the same experiences—but this is about their experience.



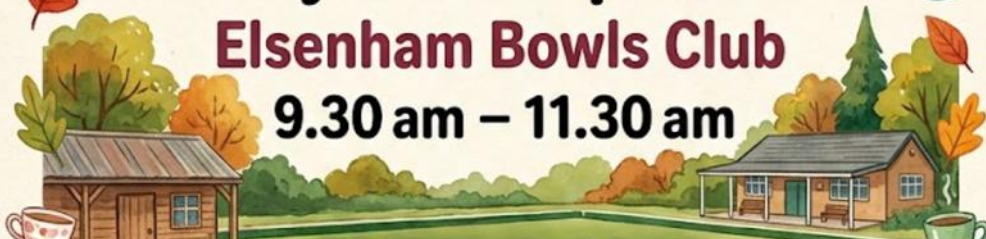
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COOKERY CORNER

By Sue Johnson ☎ 812704



A quick, low fat, low calorie, sweet treat, very moreish served warm with a scoop of ice cream!

WARM PEACHES WITH BASIL AND HONEY (serves 4)

1oz (25g) unsalted butter
2 ripe peaches, stoned and thickly sliced
2 tablespoons clear honey
Juice of 1 orange
8-10 basil leaves, shredded
Vanilla or white chocolate ice cream, to serve

Melt the butter in a large frying pan, add the peaches, then cook on both sides until slightly softened, for about 3 minutes. Add the honey and stir to make a sauce, then add the orange juice and allow to bubble briefly.

Stir in the basil and serve warm with ice cream, if you wish.

CHEF'S RECOMMENDATIONS: Nectarines are equally as delicious, both so good at this time of year. Equally as good served chilled. Not for freezing.



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Contact us at

elsenhamnews@hotmail.co.uk

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 12th 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 12th 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 12th 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.

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 online on the ECA Website. Contact
elsenhamnews@hotmail.co.uk

Advertising

The costs are as follows:

	Single Insertion	Annual Cost (11 issues)
Quarter Page	£3.00	£25.00
Half Page	£7.00	£45.00
Inside Page	£12.00	£100.00
Back Page	Contact us	

Village organisations attract reduced rates for adverts depending on number of insertions required. Please contact us to discuss.

To place an advertisement:

If you have any queries, please email us. Please send your advert as Word or Publisher via email to:
elsenhamnews@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
Angie Wenlock**

Previous issues of Elsenham News are available on the ECA Website

www.ElsenhamCommunityAssociation.org.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS

Village History Society Meeting 9 September
Bowls & Social Club Disco Night 12 September
Tennis Club Celebrations 20 September
Seed Collective 24 September
MacMillan Coffee Morning 25 September
Bowls & Social Club Quiz Night 26 September
Avril's Soup Kitchen 24 October

VILLAGE CONTACTS

Airport Roadside Parking		0800 731 2385
Beavers	1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com	
Bowls Club	Therese Clear	07759 158859
Brownies	elsenhambrownies@gmail.com	
Church Office (Old Frank's, High St, Elsenham)	Anna Hicks	814285
County Councillor (Thaxted)	Bo Davis	cllr.bo.davis@essex.gov.uk
Cricket Club	David Brown	831011
Cub Scouts	1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com	
ECA (Chair)	Sue Waite	07956 899326
ECA (Secretary)	Chris Richardson	07940 465627
ECA Website	www.ElsenhamCommunityAssociation.org.uk	
Elsenham Eagles	elsenham.action@btinternet.com	
Elsenham Farmers Market	elsenhamfarmersmarket@gmail.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 Rights of Way website	www.e-voice.org.uk/erowos/	
Friends of Elsenham School (FOES)	Louise Judd	foespta@hotmail.com
Henham & District Garden Society	Moyra Jackson	647351
History Society	Mike Rea	evhs12@hotmail.co.uk
Member of Parliament	Kemi Badenoch	0207 219 5214
Memorial Hall Bookings		
www.elsenhamcommunityassociation.org.uk/hiring-elsenham-memorial-hall		
Parish Clerk - Fiona Gardiner	parishclerk@elsenham-pc.gov.uk	
		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	07713 074656
(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.

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