

# Elsenham News



Christmas Tree Festival  
St Mary's Church,  
Elsenham  
4-5 December 2021

December 2021

[elsenhamsnews@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:elsenhamsnews@hotmail.co.uk)

75p where sold

## Elsenham Village Regular Monthly or Quarterly Activities

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

### December diary

Wed 1	Natter Night	Bowls & Social Club from 7.30pm
Thurs 2 & 16	Village Café Afternoon Tea	Memorial Hall 2 - 4pm
Sat 4 & Sun 5	Christmas Tree Festival	St Mary's Church 10am - 5pm
Sat 4 & 18	Bingo	Bowls & Social Club 7 for 7.30pm
Mon 6	Parish Council Meeting	Memorial Hall 8pm
Tues 7 & 21	Elsenham Community Choir	Village Hall 7pm
Wed 8	District Councillors' surgery	Orwell House Station Road 6pm
Fri 10	Church Lunch Club	Memorial Hall 12.30pm
Sat 11	Abba Duo	Bowls & Social Club 8pm
Tues 14	Village Café Coffee Morning	Bowls & Social Club 9.30 - 11.30am
Tues 14	Life Drawing	Village Hall 7.30pm
Thurs 16	Elsenham WI	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Sat 18	Bingo	Bowls & Social Club 7.30pm start
Sun 19	Service of Carols by Candlelight	St Mary's Church 4pm
Thurs 24	Carol Singing	Memorial Garden 5pm
Fri 24	Christmas Eve	Bowls & Social Club 7pm
Sun 26	Boxing Day Walk	Playing Field Top Car Park 11am
Friday 31	A family New Year's Eve	Bowls & Social Club 7pm-12.30am

### January 2022 diary

Mon 3	Parish Council Meeting	Memorial Hall 8pm
Tues 4 & 18	Elsenham Community Choir	Village Hall 7pm
Wed 5	Natter Night	Bowls & Social Club 7.30pm
Thurs 6 & 20	Village Café Afternoon Tea	Memorial Hall 2 - 4pm
Sat 8 & 29	Bingo	Bowls & Social Club 7 for 7.30pm
Tues 11 & 25	Village Café Coffee Morning	Bowls & Social Club 9.30 - 11.30am
Tues 11	Life Drawing	Village Hall 7.30pm
Thurs 13	ECA General Meeting	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Fri 14 & 28	Church Lunch Club	Memorial Hall 12.30pm
Fri 14	Elsenham Flower Show Society	AGM Memorial Hall 8pm
Thurs 20	Elsenham WI	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Sat 22	Bowls & Social Club Quiz	Bowls & Social Club 7.30pm

## 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
	7-8.30pm	Guides	Village Hall (term-time)
	7.30-8.30pm	Shape to the beat	Memorial Hall (not 1st Monday)
Tuesday	4.45-5.45pm	Rainbows	Memorial Hall (term-time)
	6-7.30pm	Brownies	Memorial Hall (term-time)
	8-10.30pm	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	Village Hall (term-time)
	7-9pm	Scouts	Village Hall (term-time)
Thursday	9.30-11am	Slimming World	Memorial Hall
	6.30-7.45pm	Cubs	Village Hall (term-time)
Friday	10-11am	Little Fishes	Memorial Hall (term-time)
	5.45-6.45pm	Beavers Group 2	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)

Book early to visit Daisy May's Farm open from 9am to 3pm on 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17 & 18 December.



Mobile library visits Elsenham. Visitors are restricted in numbers so you may have to queue. Face coverings must be worn.

Place: Glebe End. Time: 11.50am to 12.20pm

Day: Thursdays:

Dates: 9 & 30 December 2021 and 20 January and 10 February 2022

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## Christmas is coming!

As well as the usual cheery display of Christmas lights around the village we have some particular festive treats to enjoy.

First up will be the Christmas Market, taking place the weekend this magazine is distributed, with much to offer, see p36. The organisers would like to pass on a hearty “thank you” to everyone involved. Secondly the Christmas Tree Festival is back, see p19, for dates and times. A lovely way to see the church if you’ve never been up there before. In addition, there are Christmas services, see p33 and a Christmas choir if you’d like to join in, see p13 and fun Christmas activities up at Daisy May’s Farm, see p15 and the traditional Boxing Day Walk is back this year see p17. Don’t really know how you’re going to fit it all in!

If you can spare a thought and a bit of cash, then please make a donation to Uttlesford Food Bank, to support local families at Christmas, see p6 for a list of items they’d particularly appreciate.

## Signing off

This is the last magazine from the current editorial team but we are pleased that a new team is coming together to keep the magazine going. We will let them introduce themselves in their own time but a big thank you to everyone who has stepped forward and to all the other volunteers who keep the magazine going.

We have enjoyed our time on the Editorial Team. We’ve seen lots of things change over the last 15 or so years. When we started the magazine was cut and pasted together with a glue stick on someone’s dining room table and printed and collated in the Memorial Hall. Those might not be the bits we miss. Getting together once a month, meeting new people and finding out about the village, making the magazine a useful channel for local businesses to advertise, that’s been much more enjoyable and those will be the happy memories.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all,

*Sarah, Marion, Heather and Brad*

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## UTTLESFORD FOODBANK



Elsenham Village is the seventh largest donator to the foodbank! That is wonderful, heart-warming, and unsurprising. Obviously, it isn't a competition and it shouldn't be, however I walked a little taller when I was told this, just before writing this article. We are not a supermarket or big organisation or school. We are a village making a difference, a real difference.

Every year we give out over 200 hampers to people across Uttlesford. To continue making a difference, please pick ANY item from our Christmas Shopping List.

Tinned salmon, tinned ham, tinned ready meals, biscuits, chocolates, chocolate log, gravy/stuffing, crackers (cheese), jam/honey, crisps/twiglets etc, custard, jelly, coffee, tea, part baked bread rolls. I am told we never have enough part baked bread (check use by date) or chocolate logs (who doesn't love a chocolate log?)

All contributions by 10 December. Thank you very much and Merry Christmas.

Bring to Orwell House, Station Rd, Elsenham (next to doctor's surgery). Doorstep is swept! **Please no mince pies as there is always an abundance of those!**

Petrina Lees, ☎ 816675



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Letters must contain the author's name and address (which may be withheld). The Editors reserve the right to allow replies to letters/articles to be made in the same magazine when appropriate. The Editors' decision is final.



Dear all,

### Editorial Team

I feel I must commend the existing Editorial Team for their production of *Elsenham News* over many years. I understand a new group has been formed to produce the magazine in 2022. I wish them all the best and look forward to reading and contributing to future magazines,

Ray (Reflections) Franklin

*Editors' Note: Thanks Ray, that's very kind. Thank you also to other contributors who have made similar comments. There is to be a new team of volunteers.*

Dear Editors,

Alex Quig 1948-2021

I would like to thank all those in the village who have sent cards, phoned and offered help following Alex's death in the latter part of October. In particular I would like to acknowledge the help and support of my neighbours Sheila Holman and her daughter Karen on the day.

Alex was an enthusiastic birdwatcher who, following his stroke when he was unable to drive, spent many hours wandering around the village with his binoculars exchanging information with other birders and chatting with people he met. He will also be missed at the Bowls Club.

Ina Quig and family

I am part of two local trusts that help families in need. Families where life is not as easy as it should or could be. This could be due to a myriad of reasons. If you are, or know of any families that would benefit for some assistance in December this Christmas time, please contact me.

Petrina Lees

☎ 816675

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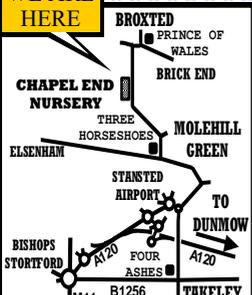
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# ELSENHAM PARISH COUNCIL 1 NOVEMBER 2021

By Louise Johnson, Clerk. ✉ [louise.epc@gmail.com](mailto:louise.epc@gmail.com) ☎ 07456 791727



John Minor has resigned from the Parish Council. The council would like to thank him for all the work he has done for the village over many years.

Two new councillors have been co-opted onto the Parish Council and will start their duties at next month's Parish Council meeting. However, the council is still looking for a further two members, so if you are interested, please read the advert in this magazine, p34.

Uttlesford District Council has issued the technical studies brought forward in the 'Call for Sites'. The Planning Committee is working on a response to the accuracy of the data. Five sites have been highlighted for Elsenham, three are housing developments and two are housing and employment. The largest site of 500 houses surrounds Tye Green. Although these sites have been put forward, they will not necessarily form part of Uttlesford District Council's new local plan.

The Inspector refused the Gladman appeal for 220 new homes on Bedwell Road, on the grounds of unacceptable noise. However, it was very disappointing that the inspector stated, 'I do not accept that Elsenham has reached its limit in terms of development'. Gladman could challenge the refusal on the appeal in the High Courts. There is a deadline of six weeks, so the appeal would need to be submitted before 6 December 2021.

The Parish Council have eleven plots on the Smith Road allotments that are currently unallocated. So, if anyone is interested in taking on a plot, please email the Parish Clerk. [louise.epc@gmail.com](mailto:louise.epc@gmail.com), meanwhile the plots will be trimmed and covered to stop the weeds growing.

Frances Lambert, who resigned from the Parish Council last month, has very kindly agreed to remain as the Village Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. There has been a slow increase in the number of passengers using the buses since the decline during Covid lockdown, hopefully this will continue.

A working party is being arranged to make the footpath that runs alongside Alsa Wood more accessible.

Stansted, Henham and Elsenham Parish Councils will meet with Fiona Gardiner from UDC, to discuss the current arrangement with the PCSO. The Parish Council wants to make sure they are getting value for money.

The PCSO is sometimes called away from her duties in the villages to attend other incidents in the district. The Parish Council would also like to see her patrolling the village regularly.

The next Parish Council meeting will be 6 December 2021, 8pm in the Memorial Hall.

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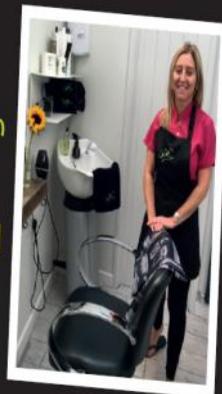
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# DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

## DECEMBER 2021

By Cllr Lees and Cllr LeCount

✉ [Cllrlecount@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:Cllrlecount@uttlesford.gov.uk)

✉ [Cllrlees@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:Cllrlees@uttlesford.gov.uk)

☎ 07836 346717

☎ 816675



Prior to Climate Change Conference 26, Uttlesford District Council passed, 'The Chair's Charter.' It is a new scheme aimed at encouraging residents, businesses, schools and other organisations to take small, practical steps to reduce their carbon footprint and single-use plastics waste.

The Charter was adopted by Uttlesford District Council as part of its commitment to taking positive action on the climate crisis and the current Chair, Cllr Arthur Coote, will be working across parties to promote and further the cause.

As part of the scheme the council has made three initial pledges:

- to encourage local businesses to reduce their use of single-use plastics with a commitment to reducing their carbon footprint
- to work with schools to reduce their plastic waste and investigate different ways to reuse and recycle
- to educate and encourage council staff to reduce single-use plastic waste.

As part of the scheme, residents are asked to make their own pledges, stating what actions they would like to take to tackle these issues. Actions can be big or small, with plenty of room for creativity! We hope to see some initiatives from the village.

Cllr Louise Pepper, Portfolio Holder for the Environment and Green Issues, added "We have committed to taking local action to prevent a climate and ecological catastrophe. This Charter is a step towards this - it is about sharing ideas and encouraging communities to work together to preserve and nurture our shared future. Protecting our environment is everyone's responsibility and I hope as many people as possible get involved". So let us know about your pledges.

To get involved in this project let us know about what actions you have taken to reduce plastic waste, get in touch by emailing [wasteaware@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:wasteaware@uttlesford.gov.uk).

For more information on how we as residents can help, <https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/7389/Taking-action-on-single-use-plastic>.

We would be happy to hear from any residents by email or telephone if there is anything you think we can help with or answer any questions you may have on our report, or the District Council. Our Surgery will be at Petrina's on Wednesday 8 December at 6pm at Orwell House, Station Road, Elsenham, CM22 6LA (next to Doctor's Surgery) We wish you a Merry Christmas, and Healthy, Happy, New Year.

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# CHRISTMAS CHOIR IS BACK!

Maxine Mott ☎ 812516 or ✉ motts@grahammott.plus-com

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After an enforced rest for 2020, the Christmas Choir will re-form this year for the traditional three services of Carols by Candlelight.

## DATES OF SERVICES:

Sunday 19 December, 4 pm at St Mary's, Elsenham

Sunday 19 December, 7 pm at St Peter's, Ugley

Friday 24 December, 7 pm at St Mary's, Henham

## DATES OF REMAINING REHEARSALS:

Friday 3 December, 7.45 pm at St Peter's, Ugley

Friday 10 December, 7.45 pm at St Mary's, Elsenham

Friday 17 December, 7.45 pm at St Mary's, Henham



## ELSENHAM COMMUNITY CHOIR

By Elaine Terry ☎ 07962 586825

✉ elaine.terry2011@btinternet.com

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Come and join us on the first and third Tuesday of every month (7 & 21 December, 4 & 18 January 2022) 7-8.30pm in Elsenham Village Hall - only £2 a session.

There are no auditions at our choir and if there is something in particular you would like to sing, then come along and tell us. December of course is going to be very festive!

Please call or email Elaine or find us on our Elsenham Community Choir Facebook page if you have any queries.

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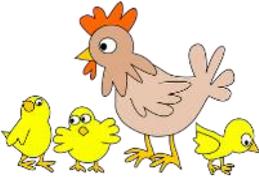
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## **Daisy May's Farm**

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What a grand time we all had during our Halloween week, and it was fantastic to see so many of you having the most brilliant fun on the farm! Thank you so much for coming, the animals loved seeing you all.



We are now getting ready for Christmas and once again, hold on to your Santa hats as there will be SO much to do! Mrs Claus will be joining us again this year and will be reading Christmas stories to the children whilst they enjoy a hot chocolate before getting their gifts from her.

Afterwards, a snowy walk through the Winter Woodland is a must! There will also be plenty of Christmas crafts to enjoy and of course, the animals all have to have a fuss made of them and maybe a few treats too!! Make sure you keep an eye on our Facebook page as booking will be essential. Don't miss out on all the festive fun!

During December, we will be open on 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 16th, 17th & 18th from 9am to 3pm, so make sure you book early!

These events are a vital lifeline for us to raise enough funds to feed and look after our animals and we can only do this with your help and support. We look forward to seeing you in the new year and a Merry Christmas to you all!



Thank you.

### **AUDLEY END MINIATURE RAILWAY**



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[www.newbeginningscounselling.co.uk](http://www.newbeginningscounselling.co.uk)



## WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

Elaine Terry, ☎ 812363

To everyone who supported our Macmillan Coffee Morning, thank you SO much. It was lovely to see so many of you and a bit of normality was very much needed by us all; even the sun came out and gave us a glorious day.

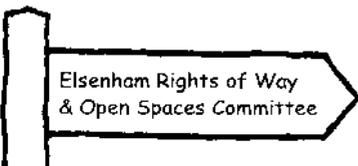
It really is a very pleasurable way of raising money, drinking tea and coffee, eating the MOST delicious homemade cakes, playing fun games, chatting with friends old and new, what more could you want?

We had a brilliant team that pulled this whole event together as usual – thank you to you ALL, especially the Bowls Club that kindly allows us to hold our event in their super club house each year. We also have to thank everyone that made a scrummy cake, donated a super raffle prize or gave us a generous financial donation. It is thanks to **everyone** involved that we raised over £1,200.

This is a MASSIVE amount of money and really will help change the lives of those affected by cancer, so give yourself a rather large pat on the back.



You might not yet have your calendar for next year, but as soon as you do, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE put in the date for next year's Coffee Morning. **FRIDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2022 is the day.**



### ELSENHAM TRADITIONAL BOXING DAY WALK SUNDAY 26 DECEMBER 2021



- Starting at 11am at Elsenham Playing Field top car park.
- Join us for a gentle social ramble returning by 1pm.
- This year will be The Walk of the Three Housing Sites & will encompass the three development sites where we expect radical change during 2022.
- Everyone welcome – be prepared for mud!
- Wear your new gloves and wellies.
- Bring the children and dogs (dogs on leads please).



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### Christmas Tree Festival 4-5 December

At the time of writing we have a good number of slots booked for trees, so we are hoping for a good show. There is still room, however, for your participation, as we are always short of helpers to welcome visitors, assist with refreshments or supervise car parking. Just speak to one of the organisers. I hope to see you there.

We also have some wonderful news to share with you about the generosity of people in Elsenham. Alan Taylor grows 'show' dahlias – and wins with them. However, the process of growing prize-winning blooms means that there are a lot of flowers that don't quite make the grade. So Colin in the Post Office, with Alma, had the idea of using these surplus flowers and liaised with Alan to collect and sell these. The result? A sum of £521 was raised! Thank you Colin, thank you Alma, thank you Alan and thanks to all who bought them.

Whilst we are in 'thank you' mode, I must mention Clifford's, our lovely local farm shop. They have agreed with Teri Williams to sell her well known 'surprise parcels'. So thank you Teri and thank you Clifford's. It really does warm the heart to get such support from our village and surrounds.

As you probably know, the Fabric Fund exists to help support the maintenance of our Church and we have one of the regular 5-year inspections (a quinquennial inspection) due. Monies raised for the Fabric Fund can help pay for any remedial work identified in the inspection – and a Church over 900 years old can need a lot of TLC! So now, after the festival, we will be turning our attention to what else we can do to entertain you. As usual all our plans will be carried in *Elsenham News* – watch this space!

Thanks for reading this. Take care and stay safe.

### GARDEN HINT *By Sue Johnson*

Treat yourself (or someone else) to a water butt for Christmas. Even if you have only a small garden, your plants - indoor and out - will be healthier if you use rainwater instead of our hard tap water. You'll also be doing just a little bit to save the planet and your hard-earned cash as well!



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# ELSENHAM VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

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

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We had a good turnout for our November meeting but as it turned out, our speaker was unable to join us so, at somewhat short notice, Chairman Ray Franklin raided his photo album and put together an illustrated tour of Bishop's Stortford past and almost present. This was very well received by the audience and sparked a lot of debate and reminiscence. There was some particularly lively debate as to the location of some of the more obscure pictures. Thank you Ray for stepping into the breach.

As I write this, it is not clear whether the village magazine will continue beyond this issue. It started life some fifty years ago as a Roneo'd (who remembers those) sheet or two giving the latest happenings in the village before evolving into the well-presented professional publication we know today. Whatever happens going forward our thanks must go to the editorial teams and their helpers past and present who have served us so well. Thank you.

Looking ahead then to next year, we have booked speakers for the first three meetings as follows:

Wednesday 9 March 2022; Anthea Hawden of Raking Light will present an illustrated talk about "Church Graffiti". She is enthusiastic about her subject and her talk will feature many examples from our own St Mary's.

Wednesday 8 June 2022; Anthony Tuck will present "Newport: A Great and Poor Town". Anthony is extremely well versed in the history of Newport having written books on the subject and this promises to be an interesting evening exploring the rich history of our near neighbour

Wednesday 14 September 2022; Ken MacDonald, Secretary of the 100 Parishes Society, will speak about the society which extols the virtues of the large, attractive, gently-undulating area, around 450 square miles of northwest Essex, northeast Hertfordshire and southern Cambridgeshire.

The last meeting of 2022 will be on Wednesday 9 November. A speaker is yet to be booked. To keep up to date please visit our website; it is frequently updated. To remind you, the next meeting will be on Wednesday 9 March and will include the Annual General Meeting. We look forward to welcoming you all to what will be an informative and entertaining evening. Visitors are always welcome to attend for a modest £2 but for just a fiver you can become a member and come to all four meetings throughout the year; you won't be disappointed.

And finally, as they say in all the best news bulletins, it just remains to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. Here's hoping it will be a more normal year than of late!



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As our Group grows ever larger, we find ourselves with more and more opportunities for our young members to take part in activities within our community, as well as the varied in-meeting activities that work towards our badges.

Another busy month has seen our Beavers focusing on their Gardener and Communicator activity badges, by planting seeds and reading Halloween stories, which also works towards their Skills and Teamwork Challenge Awards. Cubs have been taking part in science experiments towards their Scientist activity badge, growing cress, making compasses and building towers from spaghetti and marshmallows, and also took part in Halloween junk modelling, making cardboard skeletons.

Our Scouts have been working on more complex knots and lashings, and also advanced map and compass work to prepare themselves for future outdoor activities. We also welcomed our District Explorer Leader who gave a talk on Scouting options (for those who finish with our Scout Section at age 14), which included information on Explorer Scouts and the Young Leader programme, as well as how Scouting incorporates the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme.



Our Cubs and Scouts were also lucky enough this month to attend a bonfire hosted by Nick Herbert (thank you again Nick!) where we cooked hotdogs over the bonfire, sang campfire songs and Cubs burnt their Halloween skeletons.

Our Sections have also been preparing for Remembrance Day, with Beavers and Cubs making Poppies and learning about why we remember. We have been assisting

with door-to-door poppy sales, and our Group has been manning the Royal British Legion Poppy stall at the Stansted Airport Terminal. We have all been practising for our parades with our Cubs and Scouts taking responsibility to ensure their uniforms are clean and smart for the remembrance services, with washing and ironing on everyone's to-do list.

Our wonderful Leadership Team continue to give huge amounts of time and effort to arrange and run these additional activities for our young people, as well as planning and running regular meeting nights, and for that we are immensely grateful.



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Run for the community by the community



#### Coffee Morning at Elsenham Bowls Club 9.30 – 11.30 am

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month  
Fresh coffee, tea and hot buttered toast

**Tuesday 14 December**  
**Tuesday 11 and 25 January**

#### Afternoon Tea at the Memorial Hall 2 – 4 pm

Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month  
Book swap and children's corner

**Thursday 2 and 16 December**  
**Thursday 6 and 20 January**

#### Community Lunch at the Memorial Hall 12 – 2 pm

Last Monday of each month  
A two course Lunch

**Will resume in 2022**

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## DEVELOPMENT DEVELOPMENTS

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



The Appeal by Gladman against refusal of their application to build 220 homes to the north of Bedwell Road was dismissed on grounds of noise from the motorway on one side of the site and the railway on the other. In order to achieve acceptable living conditions all windows would need to be closed at all times; moreover, gardens would be unendurable, talking to neighbours in the street would be of the can't-hear-yourself-speak variety, the open spaces would be particularly deafening - and the Inspector decided it would not do.

Other aspects of her decision were, frankly, disappointing. She found that the distance of the site from most amenities is not a problem, and that road access through the twisty lane via Ugley Green and Pound Lane is not dangerous, and could therefore cope with the additional traffic. Gladman have a limited amount of time in which to mount a challenge in the High Court, but it must be on a point of law rather than planning judgement. It would be good to think we'll never hear from them again, but they don't give up easily and could try again with a revised scheme.

This being year end, here's a bit of a round up of other applications in and around the village. What bearing the Gladman decision will have on the application to build 50 homes to the south of Bedwell Road remains to be seen, but it is hardly likely to help; the strategy of building three-storey flats to baffle the motorway noise is not attractive. At Rush Lane, the appeal was allowed in September 2020 giving approval to build 40 homes, but nothing has been heard from the developers who were said to be acquiring the site. Similarly, Uttlesford District Council's Planning Committee agreed over two years ago to the application to build 130 homes to the west of Hall Road; but apart from the applicants changing their name from Bovis Homes to Vistry, little has happened. In particular, the Section 106 agreement has not been signed, which means that the much-needed contribution to the new Community Hall is not guaranteed.

Other developers have got further. Dandara's detailed application for 99 homes split between west of Isabel Drive and north of Stansted Road awaits determination. Bloor Homes have acquired the rights from Fairfield to build 350 homes off Henham Road, and their detailed application is being pored over as I write. It's not likely that many good grounds for objection will be found. The application is on UDC's website with the reference UTT/21/3269/DFO. There is just about time to respond, but remember if you do that the principle of the development has been agreed and you can only object to the detail.

I wish you an enjoyable and tranquil holiday period. There will undoubtedly be much new construction work in 2022, so don't miss the Boxing Day walk which includes three of the sites mentioned above before they succumb to the concrete mixer (see p17). Thanks and best wishes also to the retiring Elsenham News editorial team as they relinquish their blue pencils, hang up their green eyeshades and stop worrying about how far their ideas of correct comma placement should be imposed on their contributors.



## What's on in December @ The Crown Inn, Elsenham



<b>Wed 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>XMAS Wreath Making</b> <i>Please Call to Book</i>	<b>Fri 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Fizz Friday <i>Half Price Prosecco</i>
<b>Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Darts Night <i>Practice Every Thursday</i>	<b>Sat 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Carols &amp; Chestnuts 6pm</b> <i>Elsenham Choir Live</i>
<b>Fri 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Fizz Fridays DJ from 8pm <i>'Through the Centuries'</i>	<b>Sun 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Christmas Family Day</b> <i>Come &amp; See Santa</i>
<b>Sat 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Live Music with <i>Eamon Carey from 8pm</i>	<b>Mon 20<sup>th</sup></b>	'Let The Evening be Gin' <i>Deals on Gin &amp; Tonics</i>
<b>Sun 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Live Music with <i>Kyle Chater from 5PM</i>	<b>Tues 21<sup>st</sup></b>	2 for 10 Tuesdays <i>2 4 £10 on Cocktails</i>
<b>Mon 6<sup>th</sup></b>	'Let The Evening be Gin' <i>Deals on Gin &amp; Tonics</i>	<b>Wed 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	Christmas Quiz <i>Call to Book a Table</i>
<b>Tues 7<sup>th</sup></b>	2 for 10 Tuesdays <i>2 4 £10 on Cocktails</i>	<b>Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	Christmas Karaoke <i>Come &amp; Sing Along</i>
<b>Wed 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Christmas Market</b> <i>Stalls From 6-10pm</i>	<b>Fri 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Christmas Eve Party &amp; DJ</b> <i>'Christmas Classics'</i>
<b>Thurs 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Psychic Night from 7pm <i>Please Book via Facebook</i>	<b>Sat 25<sup>th</sup></b>	'MERRY CHRISTMAS' <i>(Bar is open from 12-7pm)</i>
<b>Fri 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Fizz Friday <i>Christmas Jumper Day</i>	<b>Sun 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12pm-11pm. Kitchen Closed 26<sup>th</sup> Dec-2<sup>nd</sup> Jan</b>
<b>Sat 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Bottomless Brunch 3-5pm</b> DJ from 8pm 'R&B/Garage'	<b>Mon 27<sup>th</sup></b>	'Let The Evening be Gin' <i>Deals on Gin &amp; Tonics</i>
<b>Sun 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Live Music with <i>Kyle Chater from 5pm</i>	<b>Tues 28<sup>th</sup></b>	2 for 10 Tuesdays <i>2 4 £10 on Cocktails</i>
<b>Mon 13<sup>th</sup></b>	'Let The Evening be Gin' <i>Deals on Gin &amp; Tonics</i>	<b>Wed 29<sup>th</sup></b>	Charity Night <i>Raising Money for 'Mind'</i>
<b>Tues 14<sup>th</sup></b>	2 for 10 Tuesdays <i>2 4 £10 Cocktails</i>	<b>Thurs 30<sup>th</sup></b>	Poker Night From 7pm <i>Call to Book a Seat</i>
<b>Wed 15<sup>th</sup></b>	The Crown Inn Food Bank <i>Bring your Donations</i>	<b>Fri 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>New Year's Eve Party</b> <i>DJ 8pm-2am Free Entry</i>
<b>Thurs 16<sup>th</sup></b>	Wine & Cheese Night <i>Cheese Boards available</i>	<b>Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Jan</b>	Open from 12pm-11pm <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</b>

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# The Crown Inn's Christmas Party Menu



@ The Crown Inn, Elsenham

LUNCH 2 COURSE £20  
3 COURSE £24

DINNER 2 COURSE £23  
3 COURSE £27

## *To Start*

### **CAULIFLOWER & CHESTNUT SOUP**

Served with Sourdough Toast & Butter

### **GRILLED HALLOUMI**

Served on a Beetroot & Pomegranate Salad

### **KING PRAWN AND CRAYFISH COCKTAIL**

Served with a Marie Rose Sauce, Granary Bread & Butter

### **BRUSCHETTA WITH VINE RIPENED TOMATOES & BASIL**

Served with a Balsamic Dressing & Side Salad

### **CHARGRILLED CHICKEN WINGS**

Served with Ginger, Soy & Honey Glaze

**THYME & GARLIC BAKED CAMEMBERT** for 2ppl (*Supplement £3pp*)

## *Mains*

### **THE CROWN INN TURKEY ROAST**

Served with 2 Pigs in Blankets, Sprouts with Pancetta, Yorkshire Pudding, Carrots, Honey Parsnips, Red Cabbage, Goose Fat Roast Potatoes & a Rich Homemade Gravy

### **10oz SIRLOIN STEAK** (*Supplement £5pp*)

A Succulent 10oz Sirloin Steak cooked to your liking, served with your choice of Potato, Vine Roasted Tomatoes, Mushrooms & Onion Rings

### **HOT SMOKED SALMON FILLET**

Served with Asparagus & Celeriac Mash with a Creamy Dill Dressing

### **WILLET'S CHRISTMAS TURKEY BURGER**

Smashed Turkey Patty, Sausage Meat, Stuffing, Cranberry & Homemade Signature Sauce with Rosemary Salted Fries

### **WILLET'S CHRISTMAS VEGAN BURGER**

Plant Based Patty, Stuffing, Cranberry & Homemade Signature Sauce with Rosemary Salted Fries

### **CHRISTMAS BBQ PLATTER** for 2ppl (*Supplement £5pp*)

½ Rack of Ribs, Mesquite Smoked Brisket, Hickory Smoked Pulled Pork, Chicken Wings, Corn & Slaw

## *Desserts*

### **CROWN'S CHRISTMAS PUDDING**

Served with either Brandy Sauce, Custard or Baileys Cream

### **WILLET'S CHRISTMAS SUNDAE**

Ice Cream with Smashed Christmas Pudding, Brandy Sauce & Whipped Cream

### **LOTUS BISCHOFF CHEESECAKE**

Served with a Choice of Double Cream or Vanilla Ice Cream

### **FESTIVE CHEESE BOARD** (*Supplement £3*)

(Our Full Smokehouse/BBQ Menu is also Available)



## HENHAM, ELSENHAM AND UGLEY CHURCHES

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Matthew, chapter 1, verse 21 is perhaps one of the most important in the whole Christmas story. One might even say that it provides a summary of the whole Bible.

It is part of what the angel said to Joseph, “You shall call his name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

First of all, his name means ‘God saves’, or ‘God is salvation.’ The main purpose of Jesus coming was to be a saviour. Our world is suffering deeply because of sin, and God provided the answer. He willingly gave his son, and Jesus willingly gave himself.

Who was Jesus going to save? His people.

What was he going to save them from? Their sins.

What does the scripture mean by ‘save from sins’?

First, from the penalty for sin. When Jesus gave up his life on the cross, he was taking the punishment that, sinners as we are, we deserve. Without that salvation, we cannot end up in heaven.

Second, for us as Christians, the power of sin is broken. When someone puts his or her trust in Jesus, the Bible says that there is a new creation, a new person, born of the Holy Spirit. That person is making a fresh start in life. When someone becomes a Christian, he or she is given the Holy Spirit, who gives us power to resist temptation and to live as God wants.

The great question is, are you one of

his people? Not everybody is. Are you settled in your mind that Jesus is your Lord and Master and that you will do whatever he wants for the rest of your days on earth?

You may have been thinking about this for some time. Perhaps you sense that you ought to be a better person. You feel far away from God. You may have a good idea of what it means to be a Christian, but you haven’t quite been able to take that great step of faith over what we might call the line of salvation.

There is no time like the present to give yourself and your life to him. It will mean that at once you will start growing as a Christian. You will, with God’s help, have to start making changes to what you think and what you do – but they will be changes for the better. And there will be changes that he will bring about within you by the power of the Holy Spirit – because of that fresh start I mentioned earlier.

Revelation chapter 3, verse 20 has helped many to cross that line. Jesus says, “See, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will go in and eat with him, and he with me.”

You could open that door today. What better season than around Christmas? What a special Christmas it would be!

In prayer you could acknowledge that you are a sinner, thank Jesus for dying for you and ask him to come into your life.

Happy Christmas!

*Bob McKean (Churchwarden, Ugley)*

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## CHURCH EVENTS IN OUR VILLAGES DECEMBER 2021

### Church Services

#### St Mary's, Elsenham

Sun 5 BCP Holy Communion **8.45am**  
Sun 12 BCP Morning Prayer **8.45am**  
Wed 15 Christingle Services **4 & 6pm**  
Sun 19 BCP Morning Prayer **8.45am**  
Sun 19 Carols by Candlelight **4.00pm**  
Sat 25 Christmas Day All Age Service  
**9.30am**

#### St Peter's, Ugley

Sun 5 BCP Holy Communion **10.00am**  
Sun 12 Morning Service **10.00am**  
Sun 19 Morning Service **10.00am**  
Sun 19 Carols by Candlelight **7.00pm**  
Sat 25 Christmas Day BCP HC **10.00am**  
Sun 26 Joint Churches All Age Service  
**10.30am**

#### Elsenham Village Hall

Sun 5 Holy Communion **10.15am**  
Sun 12 Morning Service **10.15am**

#### St Mary's, Henham

Sun 5 Morning Service **11.15am**  
Thurs 2 Advent Christingle **6.30pm**  
Sun 12 Holy Communion **11.15am**  
Sun 19 Joint Churches All Age Service  
**10.30am**  
Fri 24 Nativity Service **3.00pm**  
Fri 24 Carols by Candlelight **7.00pm**  
Sat 25 Christmas Day All Age Service  
**11.15am**

#### St Mary's, Henham 6.00pm

Sun 5 Sunday@Six  
Sun 12 Sunday@Six

#### Other events this month:

**Sat 4 - Sun 5 Christmas Tree Festival**, St Mary's, Elsenham - Closing Service 5<sup>th</sup> 5pm

**Fri 24 Nativity Service** St Mary's, Henham, **3.00pm**. Join in as an angel, shepherd, wise man or lamb as we hear about the very first Christmas. Festive carols & refreshments.

**Fri 24 Village Carols**, Elsenham Memorial Garden 5-5.30pm

### Other regular events

#### SUNDAYS

#### Elsenham Sunday Club/Explorers

(Y1-Y6) Old Franks, Elsenham

10.15am Sundays: 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>

#### Henham Sunday Club/Explorers

(5 years-Y6) Church Hall, Henham

11.00am Sundays: 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>

#### St Peter's Junior Church

St. Peter's Church 10.00am

Sundays: 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>

#### Pathfinders (Y7-Y9)

St Mary's, Henham 6.00pm - leave

from service to meet in OSCA

Sundays: 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>

#### Crammin' (Y10-Y13)

St Mary's, Henham 6.00pm followed  
by 7.00pm at The Church Hall,  
Henham

Sundays: 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>

#### MID-WEEK

#### Start the Week with Prayer

Church Hall, Henham 9.30am

Mondays: 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>

#### Seekers After School Bible Club

(Y3-Y4) Old Frank's 3.20pm

Mondays: 6<sup>th</sup>

#### Christian Play (Y1-Y2)

Rowan House, Elsenham 3.15pm

Tuesdays: 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>

#### Little Fishes Pre-School Group

Church Hall, Henham 10.15am

Thursdays: 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>

#### Little Fishes Pre-School Group

Elsenham Memorial Hall 10.00am

Fridays: 3<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>

#### Christmas Church Lunch Club

Elsenham Memorial Hall 12.30pm

Friday (2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month): 10<sup>th</sup>

The Churches in Henham,  
Elsenham and Ugley wish you  
peace and joy this Christmas.

*May the God of hope fill you  
with all joy and peace as you trust in  
Him, (Romans 15:13)*

Christmas  
starts with  
Christ

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## CHURCH EVENTS IN OUR VILLAGES JANUARY 2022

### Church Services

#### St Mary's, Elsenham 8.45am

Sun 2 Joint Churches All Age Service  
**10.30am**

Sun 9 BCP Holy Communion  
Sun 16 BCP Morning Prayer  
Sun 23 BCP Morning Prayer  
Sun 30 BCP Morning Prayer

#### St Peter's, Ugley 10.00am

Sun 9 Morning Service  
Sun 16 Morning Service  
Sun 23 BCP Holy Communion  
Sun 30 Morning Service

#### Elsenham Village Hall 10.15am

Sun 9 Holy Communion Service  
Sun 16 Morning Service  
Sun 23 Morning Service  
Sun 30 Morning Service

#### St Mary's, Henham 11.15am

Sun 9 Morning Service  
Sun 16 Morning Service  
Sun 23 Holy Communion Service  
Sun 30 Morning Service

#### St Mary's, Henham 6.00pm

Sun 9 Sunday@Six  
Sun 16 Sunday@Six  
Sun 23 Sunday@Six  
Sun 30 Sunday@Six

### Other regular events

#### SUNDAYS

##### St Peter's Junior Church

##### St. Peter's Church

**10.00am** Sundays: 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>

##### Elsenham Sunday Club/Explorers

##### (Y1-Y6) Old Franks, Elsenham

**10.15am** Sundays: 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>

##### Henham Sunday Club/Explorers

##### (Reception-Y5) Church Hall,

##### Henham 11.00am

Sundays: 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>

##### Pathfinders (Y7-Y9)

##### St Mary's, Henham 6.00pm - leave

##### from service to meet in OSCA

Sundays: 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>

##### Crammin' (Y10-Y13)

##### St Mary's, Henham 6.00pm followed

##### by 6.45pm at the Church Hall,

Henham Sundays: 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>

#### MID-WEEK AND SATURDAY

##### Start the Week with Prayer

##### Church Hall, Henham 9.30am

Mondays: 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>

##### Seekers After School Bible Club

##### (Y3-Y4) Old Franks, 3.20pm

Mondays: 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>

##### Christian Play (Y1-Y2)

##### Rowan House, Elsenham 3.15pm

Tuesdays: 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>

##### Little Fishes Pre-School Group

##### Church Hall, Henham 10.15am

Thursdays: 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>

##### Little Fishes Pre-School Group

##### Elsenham Memorial Hall 10.00am

Fridays: 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>

##### Church Lunch Club

##### Elsenham Memorial Hall 12.30pm

Fridays (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> of month): 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>

##### Afternoon Tea

##### OSCA, Henham 2.00pm

Saturday (3<sup>rd</sup> of month): 15<sup>th</sup>

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# ELSENHAM FLOWER SHOW SOCIETY

Sue Johnson ☎ 812704

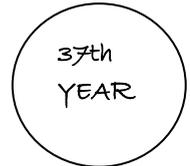


## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Elsenham Flower Show Society's AGM will be held in the Memorial Hall on FRIDAY 14 JANUARY 2022 at 8pm. We hope very much that you will come along to support us. We are always on the lookout for new committee members to join us, if you are new to the village, here's your chance to find out what we are up to! Cheese, wine and nibbles will be provided.

We were devastated at having to cancel the Flower Show and the Open Gardens again this year. However, ever hopeful, we have put the dates in the diary for 2022, very much in the hope that our planned events can happen again.

- Our annual Plant Sale will be held on Saturday 21 May.
- Open Gardens is on Sunday 26 June.
- The Flower Show is on Saturday 20 August.



The schedule for 2022 will appear on our Facebook pages and in the March Elsenham News.

Put these dates in your new diary NOW. This is our FLOWER SHOW SOCIETY - help us to make 2022 really, really special.

Seasons Greetings to you all .

People living with dementia can benefit from a hugely popular weekly Activity Group in Dunmow run by Essex-based charity Action for Family Carers.



More than a dozen people attend the Dunmow group and a further 50 in West Essex attend similar groups mixing with others and participating in a variety of mentally and physically stimulating activities ranging from seated exercise, indoor bowling, reminiscence discussions and games often including music.

The groups are led by a small team of professional and caring staff and a large number of dedicated local volunteers. Morning sessions, called Keeping Active, focus on physical activity and afternoon sessions, called Active Minds, focus on activities to stimulate the mind.

The Activity Group takes place in the Dourdan Pavilion in Dunmow on Mondays from 10-12.30pm and 1-3.30pm and new members are welcome.

If you know of anyone who might benefit from joining the groups or for more information, please call ☎ 0300 770 80 90 and ask for Clare Savva or ✉ [clare.savva@affc.org.uk](mailto:clare.savva@affc.org.uk)

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# NATURAL OUTLOOK ON WINTER WATCHING

By Heather Salvidge ☎ 814153



Unless there has been a freezing end to November, there are still just a few yellow leaves left on some trees but they go in the next icy spell. Sunrises can be spectacular to watch e.g. 'pre-sunrise pale green/blue sky, emerging sun colouring the fluffy clouds salmon pink, then sun a deep golden disc'. Of course, we also get fog, rain, white hoar frost, snow, but not enough to get the sledge out, some days up to 14C and at least two named storms!

When you are out walking about the village and are in Hall Road, check out the grazing field by Elsenham Place where in winter there are often a flock of 60 or more Canada geese with perhaps a few greylags, a heron or two, crows and maybe a buzzard drifting overhead. The Canada geese also graze on parts of the golf course. When the playing field is not in use winter visitors, redwings and fieldfares are feeding and possibly crows, magpies, pied wagtails and a common gull, which is rarer. Around the village hedges and trees the two winter thrushes also forage for various berries and choose roosting sites.

Gardens may get these too along with the 'usuals' e.g. finches, sparrows, tits, dunnocks, robins, blackbirds, starlings, collared doves and pigeons. I hope to add long-tailed-tits, once frequent, now scarce and similarly brightly coloured bullfinches. These latter seem to have retreated and to improve my chance of seeing them I'll take a wander along Dellows Lane in Ugley Green – good hedges there.

What we do get here are frequent visits by the sparrow hawk pair, Sid and Sylvia as I call them. Sid has been known to perch for at least an hour on the rose arch waiting for an innocent birdie to wing by but for no result. Sylvia is a lot less patient but can get lucky. In the short days before and after Christmas, the redwings and fieldfares sometimes visit us in search of berries and 'manky' apples put out for them. They are also on DeMandeville Green. Winter mammals around are fallow or muntjac deer, badger, foxes, grey squirrels and hedgehogs on mild days, and bank voles. These may be in the gardens in older parts of the village and the cemetery.

More signs of spring are birdsong from song thrushes and robins, aconites primroses and snowdrops coming into flower and birds pairing up.

Very sorry to lose a good friend and great 'Birder', Alex Quig, who showed me the common gull among a flock of black headed gulls on the playing field.

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Holly

As 2021 enters its final month, we anticipate seasonal celebrations to brighten the shortest days of the year. The ancient tradition of decking our houses with garlands of fresh green holly branches reminds us of the continuity of life, bringing us cheer when the days are short.

On reaching the age of 20, female holly trees bear red berries on branches covered with prickly shiny green leaves which can be cut to make decorative wreaths. Such wreaths featured in midwinter Celtic and Roman celebrations as symbols of good fortune, a tradition that continues thanks to the intervention of a local man, William Winstanley (1628 – 1698).



During the Commonwealth, which lasted from 1649 to 1660, the Puritans under Oliver Cromwell proclaimed that it was illegal to celebrate Christmas, banning frivolities and feasting on mince pies. Winstanley, who lived in Quendon, believed in celebrating Christmas as a time for sharing joy, fun and good fortune with others. After restoration of the monarchy in 1660, using his influence as a writer, he encouraged a return to the seasonal merrymaking which we still enjoy today.

Holly trees were frequently planted near houses to ward off a lightning strike; interestingly, scientific research has revealed its spiky leaves can act as miniature lightning conductors! Holly also grows in hedges or as a shrub in woods where its berries provide nourishment for blackbirds, thrushes and wood mice. Its dense branches provide secure nesting sites. Deer and rabbits will eat its nutritious leaves.

Today, many homeowners plant variegated forms of holly to provide interest in their gardens and they can select a mixture of foliage to make seasonal decorations.



Yew is another evergreen with red coloured fruits (loved by birds and squirrels), but as its leaves are poisonous it is less suitable for indoor decorations.

Yew

Tricia Moxey, Trustee

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# ELSENHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

By Moyra Jackson ☎ 647351



Well, as I write this on a warm(ish) and sunny day in November, it seems strange to be thinking about what will be the Christmas edition of *Elsenham News*. I truly hope it won't be the last edition and that a new group of villagers has come forward to ensure that this wonderful publication continues. On behalf of the WI, I'd like to send a very big thank you to the retiring editorial team and, indeed, all the volunteers who ensure that the magazine is published and delivered every month. The whole village owes you a huge debt of gratitude.

The WI is now back in the swing of 'live' meetings. Our October meeting saw the Rev Dr Nicholas Henderson complete his trilogy on Henry VIII's wives. As with his previous talks, Nicholas provided a highly informative and very entertaining view (with slides, an intermission and Tudor style music!) of the lives of Katherine Howard and Catherine Parr (respectively the 'beheaded' and 'survived' in the popular rhyme about Henry's wives.)



Nicholas is seen in the photo with Barbara Pether, one of our WI Vice Presidents.

One of our trusty teams of members has now decorated the village with knitted poppies and a new addition this year, the 'hat' on our gold post-box, was crafted by the very talented Gill Hathaway. We are also looking forward to the Remembrance Day service in the Memorial Garden and are delighted that – this year - we can return to our usual tradition of providing the refreshments for the village afterwards. By the time you read this, we'll have enjoyed the visit of the English Spirit Distillery (with tasting opportunities, we hope!) at our November meeting.

Looking forward to December, we are very pleased that the Christmas Tree Festival will be held in St Mary's Church from 4-5 December – we'll be taking part as will lots of other village organisations. It's a fabulous event so please do pop in.

Sadly, we are without the Santa fete for another year but, luckily for us, the wonderful team in our Post Office has again offered to host our festive craft shop which helps enormously with our fundraising. Please do pop along – there are lots of beautifully crafted toys and decorations to buy at very reasonable prices.

Thursday 16 December will be our Christmas party. We are keeping everything crossed that this year it can go ahead in the Memorial Hall as planned.

Whilst we are very proud of our Jam and Jerusalem traditions, Elsenham WI is so much more than that and we are happy to dispel stereotypes associated with the WI. Why not come along (or come back) – visitors, new and returning members are always welcome. I'll finish with my very warm wishes for a very merry Christmas to you, your family, and your friends. Here's hoping for a very happy, healthy, and more sociable 2022!

**Facebook: Elsenham WI Twitter: @elsenhamwi Instagram: elsenham\_wi**  
**Email: elsenhamwi@gmail.com**  
**Elsenham WI – There's a lot going on!**



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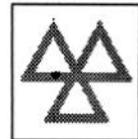
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# NOVEMBER AT U3A STANSTED

Contact Ray ☎ 07874385541 ✉ stanstedu3a@gmail.com



On October 7th thirty-four members visited Knole Park in Kent, the home of the Sackville family. They were impressed by the beautiful landscapes, an unusual but interesting house and an amazing art collection. They agreed that they had had a really good day.

The newly formed Gardening Group enjoyed a wonderful afternoon on 11 October when they visited Ulting Wick, the eleven-acre garden created by Philippa Burrough. The garden was awash with autumn colour and inspirational planting schemes. The group toured the garden, enjoyed an introductory talk and, at the end of the tour, tea and cake on the terrace.



We welcomed Tony Diamond to the monthly meeting on Thursday 21 October. His very amusing and informative talk was entitled 'The History of Chocolate'. It was followed by the AGM which had been held over from May 2020 because of Covid. At the AGM, Susan Sedgebeer was welcomed as the new Chairman, Eric Fidell as the new Treasurer and three more members joined the committee. The committee is indebted to the outgoing Chairman, Ray Smith, Treasurer, Nigel Johnson and Speaker Secretary Gill Dean, and wish them all well with many thanks for their time and efforts over the last few years.

Our first meeting in December is on the 9th when banjo player Steve Geller will present 'The Songs we Sang – a Career in Music'. He will be playing some of the songs from the last fifty years.

The speaker at our January meeting will be Brian Carline. His talk, 'Our Street' is a pictorial representation of life in an industrial city in the 40s and 50s.

Our Christmas Lunch is at Bury Lodge on 16 December. Members who wish to join us should email their intention to ✉ stanstedu3a@gmail.com. See the November Newsletter for further details.

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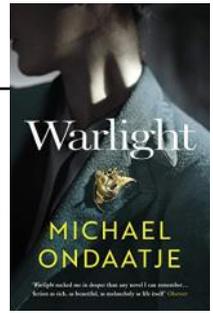
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*'It is 1945, and London is still reeling from the Blitz. 14-year-old Nathaniel and his sister, Rachel, are apparently abandoned by their parents, left in the care of an enigmatic figure named The Moth. They suspect he might be a criminal, and grow both more convinced and less concerned as they get to know his eccentric crew of friends: men and women all who seem determined to protect Rachel and Nathaniel. But are they really what and who they claim to be? A dozen years later, Nathaniel journeys through recollection, reality and imagination to uncover all he didn't know or understand in that time, to piece together a story that feels something like the truth...' So says the blurb on the back of the book.*

**'Fiction as rich, as beautiful, as melancholy as life itself, written in the visionary language of memory' – The Observer**

This was the choice of the book group this month. It is a story of intrigue, set in two time spaces.

In the older narrative, Nathaniel and Rachel are teenagers. Their father leaves to work in Asia, and their mother leaves supposedly to join their father.

Nathaniel and Rachel are left in the family home supervised by strangers who appear to be involved in some criminal activity, i.e. illegal greyhounds and nocturnal trips on the river in a mussel barge. We read about Nathaniel and his school, work and first girlfriend. We don't learn so much about Rachel as it is Nathaniel's story. They genuinely like and come to enjoy being with The Moth, The Darter and particularly Olive. Then it all collapses in on itself.

Moving to the later section, Nathaniel works for the government. This gives him an opportunity to investigate war events. He discovers what his mother was actually working at and about her relationship with Marsh Felon, the son of a thatcher who had worked on her roof many years previously. There is narrative but not really explanations nor much information about his father. However, it is no surprise that everyone involved is some sort of spy but how or why or what they did is not explained. Nathaniel's mother has always seemed to have behaved inexplicably and we didn't find it plausible.

Therefore, for most of us, we found it a book of two halves. The first half had pace and a liveliness and interesting characters plus great evocation of post-war London whereas the second half set mostly in Suffolk is more plodding as it is a journey of discovering facts. We didn't agree on which was the better half.

We did agree that the book is beautifully written and not hard to read.



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November saw the children in Year 6 take part in the Armistice Day service at the Elsenham war memorial, where we respectfully remembered those who have died serving our country. During the service, led by Charles Willbe, the children read Bible verses, shared poems that they had written themselves and laid wreaths that each of the two classes had made together. Year 6 have been studying World War II this term which is a popular history topic for them, helping to develop their knowledge and understanding of the conflict and what life was like for those who lived through it. The rest of the classes at school held their own special service of Remembrance, during which, at 11am, our school bell was rung and we all fell silent.

“It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas!” December has to be the best month in a primary school as we head

towards the end of term, with lots of wonderful festive activities planned. We are looking forward to being able to return to visiting the panto at the theatre this year, performing Nativities, having the traditional Christmas sale and participating in Christingle services at the church to name but a few of the lovely activities we have planned. On behalf of Elsenham Primary School I wish you all a very happy Christmas!

## Reception admissions for academic year starting in September 2022

The primary school (Reception) admission round opened on **Monday 8 November 2021**, for parents to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2022.

The statutory national closing date for applications is **15 January 2022**.

Applications can be made online via [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions). All of the application information is available on the website above.

The website also has a copy of the Primary Education in Essex 2022-23 booklet and the Schools Admissions Policies Directories contain details of all admission policies.



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### The Red Kite

Recently, I was chatting with Alex Quig with questions about the red kite which was soaring above. Their scientific name is *milvus milvus*. Easily distinguished by their reddish brown body, angled wings and forked tail. They have a wing-span of 175-195cm. There is an estimated population of 4,600 pairs in the country. Do you know why they thrive here? Why they swirl and hover and fill the sky over Elsenham? The answer is simple, road-kill.

Kites are not killers, they're scavengers, once treasured for their ability to clear-up rubbish and were cited as pests in Shakespeare's time. The return of the red kite to England in serious numbers is that they have grown fat on road-kill, animals that we, you and I, kill willy-nilly at the wheels of our cars. Numerous additional roads have been created and more has been covered in concrete but this has handed us back the kites as a sort of apology. Please do your bit to assist our wildlife. I applaud those who have introduced ponds to our allotments. Plant some wildflower seeds, leave food for the birdlife and anything to help maintain our flora and fauna for future generations.

## ELSENHAM BOWLS AND SOCIAL CLUB

*By Sue Waite*



Monday – 7pm. Pool League run by Lee Reilly. Also on Mondays we have started a practice/training crib session .

Tuesday – 7pm crib league plays. We have two teams in Elsenham and play either at home or away with other local teams. The bar is always open.

Wednesday – 7pm is Darts Night – open to all newcomers where you will have a good laugh as well as a competitive game of darts.

Thursday – 7pm is Short Mat Bowls.

Friday – 7pm is Club Night. Members can socialise. Non members are welcome when signed in by a member. Membership is still only £9.

Other planned events include bingo on 4 and 18 December.

ABBA Duo – Saturday, 11 December, 8pm. Tickets £10 with a buffet during the interval.

Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve celebrations are also planned.



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Our membership fees are amongst the lowest in the area. We are offering half-price membership for the remaining six months of our membership year; and it is quick and easy to join, just sign up online [www.elsenhamtennisclub.co.uk](http://www.elsenhamtennisclub.co.uk).

Individual Membership	£32.50	Senior	£20.00
Couple	£57.50	Student	£17.50
Family	£62.50	Junior	£7.50

We have floodlights that allow us to play until 10.30pm as well as regular club nights, competitive league play (including inter-club), ladies' mornings and coaching (individual and group lessons). Court bookings are all online, you will get your own key and we will show you how to operate the lights via tokens you can purchase from us. To find out more, visit our website, or you can get in touch via Facebook or [mail@elsenhamtennisclub.co.uk](mailto:mail@elsenhamtennisclub.co.uk).

### **Inter-club matches starting up again this winter**

We are pleased to announce that we have entered the Essex Small Club League with both a men's and mixed team. We are looking for players so let us know if you want to participate. We would love to get more ladies involved with a view to entering a ladies' team next Summer. Matches are arranged in the evenings or during the weekend. In addition to some competitive tennis, it's also a social event.

### **Christmas Tree Festival**

Elsenham Tennis Club is going to participate again in the yearly event at the church. We will decorate our own tree (yes - it will be tennis related).

### **Christmas tennis club night party**

Keep an eye out for further updates on our planned mulled wine / tennis club night evening, still fixing the date, either 9 or 16 December.

### **Weekly schedule now up and running:**

Tuesday evening – cardio tennis  
Tuesday evening– club night  
Wednesday morning – ladies' morning  
Thursday evening – two group coaching sessions  
Friday morning – ladies' morning  
Sunday afternoon – leisure play

### **ETC on Facebook:**

Don't forget you can keep up to date with events and activities via our Facebook page, just search for Elsenham Tennis Club

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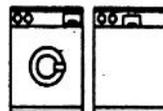
  
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# STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

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



The 2021 season ended with work parties tidying up both grounds. Sixteen members attended the Herts & Essex Border League Presentation Dinner to collect the Premier Division Champion's Cup. Rory McGurk collected highest number of runs (736 runs) and top individual score award (157) and young Peter Page collected best bowling performance award (6-13) for Division 2. Grant Ward took 30 wickets in the Premier Division but unfortunately missed out by one wicket to get an award. Blame the fielders, Grant.



*Champions Herts & Essex  
Border League Premier Division*

The seniors are playing in the indoor league at HECC and juniors will start indoor nets in December.

The financial position of the club has also improved. The club would like to thank the local parish council, and Uttlesford District Council, in particular, Geoffrey Sell and Petrina Lees, for their continued long term support. Parents, friends of the club and playing members have also been generous – a big thank you to you all. It is sad that Brian Harvey, one of our vice presidents, died recently. He too supported the club financially and was always interested in our youth section.

Chairman David Brown who has been with the club for 66 years said, “2021 is possibly the best season that I can remember. The three major events were winning the league, having 100 juniors at the club for the first time and juniors playing cricket at Molehill Green. On top of that all players, parents, and members enjoyed our very friendly atmosphere.”

The club has consulted with Columbia Threadneedle on its plans for sport onsite and offsite of the proposed north side development at Stansted Airport.



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## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

### Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child:

- On Sunday 31 October 2021 at Elsenham Village Hall, Heidi Elsa Kempe.

### Burial of Ashes:

- On Tuesday 26 October 2021 at St Mary's Church Elsenham Churchyard, Barbara and Dennis Haslam.
- On Friday 29 October 2021 at St Mary's Church Elsenham Churchyard, Timothy Bateman.
- On Monday 8 November 2021 at St Mary's Church Elsenham Churchyard, Jennifer Mary Miller.

# COOKERY CORNER

By Sue Johnson ☎ 812704



This festive roulade is a classic Christmas bake. Fun to make and looks so good!

## YULE LOG (serves 8-10)

### For the sponge:

5 eggs separated  
125g light brown soft sugar  
40g pure cocoa powder  
½ teaspoon mixed spice  
½ teaspoon ground ginger  
White caster sugar, for sprinkling

### For the brandy butter filling:

100g soft butter  
250g icing sugar, sifted  
4 tablespoons brandy  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

### For the frosting:

100g dark chocolate, chopped  
100ml double cream  
25g butter

### For the decoration:

75g white chocolate, chopped  
10 fresh bay leaves  
Icing sugar for dusting  
edible lustre, food spray or powder

Line a 35x25cm Swiss roll tin with baking parchment and heat the oven to 180°C/160°C fan/gas 4. Beat the egg whites with an electric whisk until just holding peaks, then add half the sugar, 1 tablespoon at a time, until the peaks hold. Set aside. Beat the yolks with the remaining sugar until pale and fluffy in a clean bowl. Sift in the cocoa, spices and a pinch of salt and gently fold them through. Beat in a third of the egg whites, then gently fold through the rest until you have an airy mousse. Pour into the tin and spread evenly. Bake for 12-15 minutes until springy.

Sprinkle caster sugar over a large sheet of baking parchment. Turn the cake out onto the sugared parchment, then peel off the sheet you used to line the tin. Cover with a clean tea towel, then leave to cool completely. Trim the edges, then score along the inside edge of one of the short sides and roll it up from there, using the parchment to help.

To make the filling, beat all the ingredients together with an electric whisk for 10 minutes until light and fluffy. Unroll the sponge, then turn it so that one long edge is facing you. Spread the buttercream over the sponge using a palette knife, keeping the end furthest from you clean. Using the parchment, roll the sponge up again into a roulade.

For the frosting, tip the chocolate into a large bowl. Put the cream and butter in a saucepan and heat gently until the butter melts and the cream reaches simmering point, then pour over the chocolate. Stir to create a smooth mixture, then leave to cool, stirring occasionally until you can spread it over the sponge. Make bark lines using a fork, then chill in the fridge for at least 30 minutes.

To decorate with chocolate leaves, melt the white chocolate in a bowl over simmering water and paint the underside of the bay leaves with it. Put in the fridge to set for 30 minutes, then gently peel away the bay leaves. Arrange over the log, then lightly dust with icing sugar and lustre.

# 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> may not be accepted but will, if deemed appropriate, be held over to the next month.** We are happy to receive handwritten articles that ideally should reach us earlier than the 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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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## Flyers

It costs £50 to insert an advertising flyer into the magazine. You must let us know by the deadline of the 12<sup>th</sup>. You must also provide the flyers.

## Editorial Team

Sarah Alder 817660

## ECA Website

[www.ElsenhamCommunityAssociation.org.uk](http://www.ElsenhamCommunityAssociation.org.uk)

**If you respond to one of the adverts in the magazine, please tell the advertiser that you found them in *Elsenham News*.**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Christmas Tree Festival—Elsenham Church 4-5 December**

**24 December – Christmas Eve at the Bowls Club 7pm**

**Traditional Boxing Day Walk Sunday 26 December 11am**

**31 December – A family New Years Eve at the Bowls Club 7-12.30pm**

## VILLAGE CONTACTS

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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 Editorial Information for details.

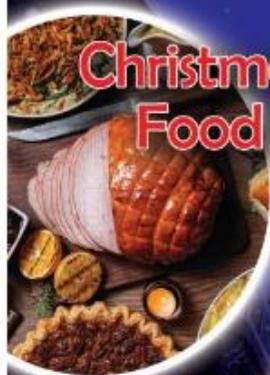


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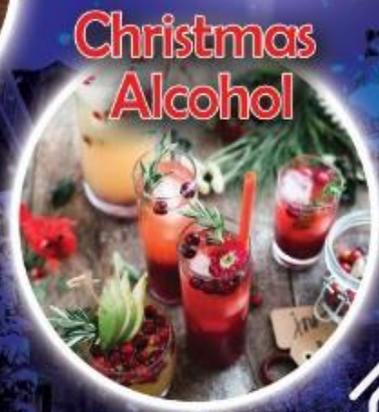
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