

Elsenham News

St. Mary's Elsenham Fabric Fund present :

Christmas Tree Festival



In St. Mary's Church
December 3rd - 4th

10.30 - 5.00

EVERYONE WELCOME

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Happy New Year 2023 to all
our readers and contributors

elsenhamsnews@hotmail.co.uk

December 2022
75p where sold

Elsenham Village Regular Monthly or Quarterly Activities

Parish Council 1st **Monday** of month 8pm (excl. Bank Holidays) Memorial Hall

Natter Night 2nd **Monday** of the month from 7.30pm Bowls & Social Club

Village Café Coffee 1st & 3rd **Tuesday** 9.30 - 11.30am Memorial Hall

& 2nd & 4th **Tuesday** 9.30 - 11.30am Bowls & Social Club

Henham & District Garden Soc 1st **Tuesday** of month 2.30 - 4pm Memorial Hall

Community Choir 1st & 3rd **Tuesdays** of the month 7- 8.30pm Village Hall

Life Drawing 2nd **Tuesday** of month 7.30 - 9.30 Village Hall

Village History Society 1st **Wednesday** of month quarterly 7.45pm Memorial Hall

Church Lunch Club 2nd & 4th **Friday** of the month 12.30pm Memorial Hall

December diary

Sat 3	Bingo	Bowls & Social Club 7 for 7.30pm
Sat 3 - Sun 4	Christmas Tree festival	St Mary's Church 10.30am-5pm
Mon 5	Parish Council Meeting	Memorial Hall 8pm
Tues 6 & 20	Village Café Coffee Morning	Memorial Hall 9.30 - 11.30am
Tues 6 & 20	Elsenham Community Choir	Village Hall 7pm
Fri 9	Church Lunch Club	Memorial Hall 12.30pm
Mon 12	Natter Night	Bowls & Social Club 7.30pm
Tues 13	Village Café Coffee Morning	Bowls & Social Club 9.30 - 11.30
Tues 13	Life Drawing	Village Hall 7.30pm
Thurs 15	Elsenham WI	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Sat 17	Bingo	Bowls & Social Club 7 for 7.30pm
Sun 18	Carols by Candlelight	St. Mary's Church 7pm
Sat 24	Village Carols	Memorial Garden 5-5.30pm
Mon 26	Boxing Day ramble	Playing Field Top Car Park 11am

January 2023 diary

Tues 3 & 17	Village Café Coffee Morning	Memorial Hall 9.30 - 11.30am
Tues 3 & 17	Elsenham Community Choir	Village Hall 7pm
Mon 9	Parish Council Meeting	Memorial Hall 8pm
Mon 9	Natter Night	Bowls & Social Club 7.30pm
Tues 10 & 24	Village Café Coffee Morning	Bowls 9.30 - 11.30am
Tues 10	Life Drawing	Village Hall 7.30pm
Thurs 12	Elsenham Community Association Meeting	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Fri 13 & 27	Church Lunch Club	Memorial Hall 12.30pm
Fri 13	Flower Show Society AGM	Memorial Hall 8pm
Sat 14	Bingo	Bowls & Social Club 7 for 7.30pm
Thurs 19	Elsenham WI	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Sat 28	Bingo	Bowls & Social Club 7 for 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
	7.30-8.30pm	Shape to the beat	Memorial Hall (not 1st Monday)
Tuesday	4.45-5.45pm	Rainbows	Memorial Hall (term-time)
	6-7.15pm	Cubs	Henham Village Hall (term-time)
	6-7.30pm	Brownies	Memorial Hall (term-time)
	7.30-10.30pm	Tennis Club night	Tennis Courts
	8pm	Fitness Yoga/Pilates	Memorial Hall
Wednesday	9.45-11.30am	Tots & Toddlers	Memorial Hall (term-time)
	5.30-7.30pm	Slimming World	Memorial Hall
	5.45-6.45pm	Beavers	Henham Village Hall (term-time)
	7-9pm	Scouts	Henham Village Hall (term-time)
Thursday	6-7.15pm	Cubs	Henham Village Hall (term-time)
	6.45-7.45pm	Jump Fit	Elsenham Village Hall
Friday	10-11am	Little Fishes	Memorial Hall (term-time)
	5.45-6.45pm	Beavers Group 2	Henham Village Hall (term-time)
Saturday	9am-12pm	Junior Football	Playing Field
	8.45-9.30am	Little Kickers Mighty	Village Hall (term time)
	9.35-10.20am	Little Kickers Junior	Village Hall (term time)



Mobile Library

Every third Thursday stopping at Glebe End 11.50 am

to 12.20 pm

December 1 and 22

January 12



ELSENHAM COMMUNITY CHOIR!

If you are thinking it's beginning to sound a bit like Christmas, then you would be right at the **Elsenham Community Choir**, as we are busy rehearsing our songs for our festive performance at **The Crown in Elsenham on Saturday 10th December at 6.00pm**, so be sure not to miss this!

If you make one new year's resolution on January 1 next year, please make it to come and join us at the Choir, you won't regret it, I promise. We began our choral venture in March 2019 and cannot believe how fast this has gone and just how much we have progressed and learned, but more to the point, how much fun and laughter we have enjoyed.

We meet on the first and third Tuesdays of every month from 7.00 to 8.30pm in Elsenham Village Hall (next to the school), and it costs just £2 a session.

If you would like to join us, regardless of your talent, you really would be very welcome. Go on, give it a go, you have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

Please just turn up or find us on our Elsenham Community Choir Facebook page or call ☎ 07962 586825.

Merry Christmas everyone and let's hope that 2023 is kind to us all.



ELSENHAM FLOWER SHOW SOCIETY

36th
Show



Elsenham Flower Show Society's AGM will be held in the Memorial Hall on Friday January 13 at 8.00pm.

It would be great if you could come along and support us and join us for some cheese and wine. We love to have new ideas and see fresh faces. If you've recently moved into the village, here's your chance to find out about our events and how easy it is to put entries into the Show! The Flower Show next year will be on Saturday August 19 in the Memorial Hall and marquee on the Playing Field. The schedule for 2023 will appear in the March Elsenham News and on the Flower Show Facebook pages. Our annual plant sale will be held on Saturday May 20. Look out for further details.

Put these dates in your diary. This is our VILLAGE FLOWER SHOW SOCIETY - help us to do our bit to make 2023 a wonderful village year!!!

Seasons Greetings to all
Sue Johnson - Secretary

THE NEWS REPORT

From The Editors



Christmas is just a few weeks away, quickly followed by a new year and new hopes.

Our hope at Elsenham News is that we can continue to provide you with a useful monthly publication that keeps you updated on village news and keeps you informed about local issues. As a new team at the start of this year, we hope we have achieved just that this year.

This is also an important time of the year to stop and think of the highlights of the past 12-months and who has made it special for you. Please remember to thank them for doing that for you.

There are lots of events this month to get you in the festive mood, please look through all the pages in this issue to ensure you find the event that will bring you seasonal joy.

As we say goodbye to 2022, the editorial team and the team of distributors wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We will be back with the next issue in February 2023.



A special thank you to Nyaradzo for her colourful front covers throughout the year. A special talent that we hope we retain for 2023!



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DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

DECEMBER 2022

By Cllr Lees and Cllr LeCount

✉ Cllrlecount@uttlesford.gov.uk

✉ Cllrlees@uttlesford.gov.uk

☎ 07836 346717

☎ 816675



How delightful to see that many residents have been placing their refuse bins with the handle facing the road, ensuring easy access [for the refuse](#) collectors. I am aware that lots of folk hadn't needed my gentle nudge in previous reports, still wonderful to see.

Ending the year on a positive note, our housing team attended the Essex Housing Awards and we are delighted to announce that we won the "Working in Partnership" Award. This was a partnership between ourselves and a family in need of a specially adapted bungalow in Eisenham.

We were also nominated for the "Covid-19 Recovery" Award, we came 2nd and were commended for the work of the partnership in supporting rough sleepers through the pandemic, lockdown, everyone in, move on and vaccination roll out. We are very proud that our team, at an unprecedented time when we all were scared for not only our own safety but the safety of all our loved ones and at a time when we needed to be resourceful and robust and to rip up the rule book, did exceptionally well.

We have also resolved to approve the Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2023/24. Thank you to those that responded to the consultation. This means that the contribution rate is frozen for the ninth consecutive year at 12.5% and we continue to protect Vulnerable and Disabled Residents and Carers on a low income.

We have also proposed that £300,000 (from the Environment allocated budget) is allocated to Community based carbon reduction and/or biodiversity projects within the district. Funding is made available between £1,000 and £35,000. Non-profit groups or organisations based in Uttlesford, including any town or parish council within the district, can apply for funding for new projects which will deliver carbon emission reduction, community engagement in climate change, or ecological enhancement in your community. Deadline is **midday on Thursday 5 January 2023**. For more information:

<https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/zero-carbon-communities-grant>

We still have some ward initiative fund monies that has to be spent by the end of this year.

We are not allocating a surgery this month, we are always happy to chat, via telephone, email or zoom.

We would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy 2023.



Elsenham Christmas Windows



Look out for Christmas Windows throughout Elsenham from 17 to 24 December.



Everyone can join in, collecting words and bringing them to Village Carols at 5pm on Christmas Eve to get a prize.

Check local Facebook pages for details nearer the time, or heuchurch.co.uk



S. PERRY CHAPEL END NURSERY

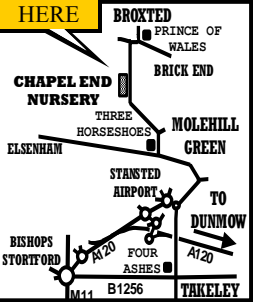
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ELSENHAM PARISH COUNCIL OCTOBER 2022

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



There has been a lot of complaints about the excessive numbers of HGVs that are using the local roads to transport spoil from Bishop's Stortford North and dumping it in this location. The impact is unacceptable to local people. This is not necessarily a highways matter because, unless the drivers are infringing a traffic regulation order, there is little the police can do about it. Essex County Cllr. Ray Gooding is working with ECC Minerals and Waste Department to try and stop the illegal dumping of spoil on unauthorised land, there is even a possibility the spoil could be toxic. However, the locations where the waste is being dumped seem to be constantly moving therefore it is difficult to keep up with.

North Hall Road is still not open, the new opening date is either the end of November or the middle of December.

The Parish Council continues to have problems with obtaining the funding to start the project of a new community hall. The funds for the new hall are held by Uttlesford District Council. Emails to Uttlesford District Council regarding the process of releasing the funds go unanswered. Uttlesford District Council had stated that the Parish Council is expected to commission the project and its works, take on the responsibility of paying for the work but be totally dependent and reliant upon Uttlesford District Council to transfer the necessary funds in a timely way for the Parish Council to pay the contractor's invoices. If there is a hold up, the Parish Council will nevertheless be held liable for the payment of the invoice. Given the likely size of the individual invoices, the Parish Council will not have its own available funds to cover payment. In the past it has taken Uttlesford District Council five months to reimburse the Parish Council.

A memorial stone to Queen Elisabeth II is to be placed in the Memorial Garden.

The War Memorial in Church Lane, which has been damaged by lorries delivering soil into the adjacent field has caused distress and anger to residents. Despite assurances by Mrs. Doreen Taylor that the memorial will be repaired, it has still not happened.

No-one has claimed ownership of this War Memorial, therefore the Parish Council would like to take responsibility for it, and to make sure that once it has been repaired it is looked after and valued as a treasured reminder of the men who lost their lives in war.

Due to all the road works and closures in the area buses are finding it hard to stay on schedule. One of the main causes of local hold-ups is the works at Birchanger roundabout.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 5 December at 8pm in the Memorial Hall. All residents are welcome.



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DEVELOPMENT DEVELOPMENTS

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



At the moment it's all about the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). As noted previously, Uttlesford District Council has been 'designated' by Government because too many major planning decisions were overturned at appeal. Developers now have the option of applying direct to PINS rather than to UDC's Planning Committee and two have done so recently in our area.

The first is the application by Countryside for 130 homes off Henham Road, in the field opposite the Crown. PINS have asked for further information from the applicants, who have promised responses by 11 November and 30 November. It looks as if there will be a further period of consultation by interested parties after then. Any hopes developers might have that the procedure would be a quick route to a decision seem unlikely to be realised. In fact, a professional PINS Inspector will probably make a more thorough job of it than a committee of well-intentioned amateurs meeting once a fortnight with a full agenda.

Bloor Homes have started to build 350 homes off Henham Road and now propose 'Phase 2', complete with all the usual old nonsense about how it will benefit the area by providing 200 new homes, 40% of them 'affordable' (always a relative term in this context). There will be a public open space within the site (which is all open space at present) and a new Recreational Trail, complete with initial capital letters, around the site perimeter (fields where people have long walked round the edges). It will provide construction jobs for local people (most of whom will travel by road, making traffic congestion more acute), and so on. As for road transport, well, it's only another 200, and that can't make much difference, surely.

The amount of time given for representations was not generous, such that the deadline has already passed. The site is in Henham parish; it was agreed previously that an adjustment should be made so that all the 350 approved homes are in Elsenham parish, rather than the boundary wandering indecisively across the centre of the site.

Next year, just to cheer us up, we can expect the first of Bloor's 350 houses to become available. The amount of time to complete varies between three and seven years, depending on the source. Vistry are committed to the first of their 130 homes off Hall Road becoming available. We can also expect a detailed application at some time in respect of 40 homes off Rush Lane, adjacent to the railway. The Dandara application for 99 homes off Isabel Drive and off Stansted Road remains stalled at the time of writing over the issue of noise from the motorway.

The best way is to forget about these future delights as far as you can. The holiday period should at least be free of construction activity. I hope that yours is equally peaceful, and that the old gent in red, or his substitute, finds your chimney, real, fake or imaginary, and delivers everything which you might hope for.



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Craig Pike



THE CHRISTMAS CHOIR IS BACK!

The Christmas Choir is being formed again for three services of Carols by Candlelight, one in each church.

Join us to sing the traditional carols telling the story of the birth of the Christ Child:



DATES OF SERVICES:

Sunday 18th December, 4 pm at St Peter's, Ugley
Sunday 18th December, 7 pm at St Mary's, Elsenham
Saturday 24th December, 7 pm at St Mary's, Henham

DATES OF REHEARSALS:

Friday 2nd December, 7.30 pm at St Peter's, Ugley
Friday 9th December, 7.30 pm at St Mary's, Elsenham
Friday 16th December, 7.30 pm at St Mary's, Henham

Choir members old and new from any of our three parishes are most welcome.

If you have any questions, contact Maxine Mott ☎ 812516 or

✉ motts@grahammott.plus.com)

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Windhill, Bishop's Stortford



Jingle All The Way!

A Family Christmas Concert in aid of Shelter

Saturday 10th December 11am

Take an hour out of Christmas shopping in Bishop's Stortford to pop into St Michael's Church to enjoy a family friendly, whistle-stop tour of many of your favourite carols and Christmas songs. Plenty of audience sing-alongs, together with jingle bells, this will get you all into the real spirit of Christmas. Not to be missed! Tickets from www.theharmonaireschoir.com are available at £5 for adults, £3 for children.



ST MARY'S FABRIC FUND ELSENHAM

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By Elizabeth Barker ☎ 813543

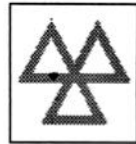


St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival will be held on Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 December from 10.30am to 5.00pm. The Church will be full of brightly coloured trees. Refreshments will be available. We hope to see you there!

Watch Elsenham News for 2023 events. Have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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Help for villagers throughout Christmas

By *Petrina Lees* 🏠 816675

Donations that make their way from my doorstep to Uttlesford Foodbank are generous and plentiful. Which is why we are the seventh highest for donators in the district.

I have no idea who some of you are, but may I thank and congratulate you on your generosity and kindness. To those that ensure a parcel is delivered with whatever I have requested on Facebook, thank you – though I'm still always befuddled - saying "I haven't ordered anything" then my heart is full of joy. I am grateful that I live here.

It is not every day your husband is wittering because he cannot get into the front door due to an extraordinary large supply of teenage sanitary protection on the doorstep! If nothing else, it gives me something to talk about.

New data shows that foodbanks in The Trussell Trust network gave out 33% more food parcels this year compared to the same period in 2021.

We will give out over 300 Christmas Hampers this year, so I would welcome all donations by December 12th. We know budgets are tight this year. These hampers will make a big difference so thank you in advance.

All items are really appreciated, but we would especially be grateful for tinned ham or salmon, biscuits, chocolate, fruit juice, Christmas log, gravy granules and stuffing, crackers (for cheese), jam and honey, jelly and custard, instant coffee and part baked rolls (please check use by date). Lastly, all toiletry items will be gratefully received.

Thank you again and a Merry Christmas

The Wells Trust and Henham, Elsenham and Ugley Trust

Both trusts help people in need at Christmas. We will be having a formal meeting prior to this magazine delivery; I am hopeful we will have funds set aside for anyone we have missed. Please contact me if you, or anyone you know, could do with a little help throughout the festive season. Please contact me on 816675 or petrinalees@hotmail.com

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Take responsibility – that’s the plea to drivers, their families and friends and members of the public from Essex Police.

Essex Police deals with drink driving robustly 365 days a year but will be stepping up road checks in towns across the county with bustling night time economies and rural areas where some drivers believe they have less chance of getting caught drunk behind the wheel. As well as breath tests, police officers will be testing drivers for drug use with road side impairment tests and targeting those who use the road to commit other types of crime.

Essex Police is asking everyone to take responsibility by:

- **Stopping family and friends getting behind the wheel if they have had an alcoholic drink.**
- **Dialling 999 if you know someone is drunk and you see them getting behind the wheel of a car.**
- **Calling Essex Police on 0300 333 4444 to give police information about someone who regularly chooses to drink and drive. Telling Crimestoppers anonymously about people who regularly choose to drink and drive by calling 0800 555 111 or visiting www.crimestoppers-uk.org**

“It’s time we all took responsibility. Don’t let friends or family get behind the wheel of a car if you know they’ve had a drink and report drink drivers to Essex Police or Crimestoppers. Picking up the phone could save a life.”

“Just one drink is too many when driving. One or two isn’t okay regardless of your age, sex or build so if you’re planning a night out designate a driver who will stick to soft drinks. Think about the consequences of drink driving. Losing your licence could mean losing your job and leave you unable to pay your mortgage or rent. More seriously, you could face imprisonment and the prospect of having to live with the guilt of taking a life for the rest of yours. “

The regional manager for Crimestoppers, said: Crimestoppers received over 100 calls about drink drivers in Essex, indicating that this is a real concern for the public.

“If someone has information about a regular drink driver, they may feel uncomfortable about going to the police. Crimestoppers can take this information 100% anonymously. We do not ask for the caller’s name or any personal details. We do not trace or record our calls and those giving information do not have to give a statement to the Police or go to court. Nobody will know you called. “

“In all the years we have been running Crimestoppers has never broken its promise of anonymity”.

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Daisy May's Farm

Hall Road, Elsenham, CM22 6DN

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.



So, we are now getting ready for Christmas and once again, hold on to your Santa hats as there will be SO much to do! Mr and 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!! Do keep a look out for our exciting Christmas plans!!



Make sure you keep an eye out on our Facebook page for our Christmas opening days and times as booking will be essential and you don't want to miss out on all the festive fun!



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 merry Christmas to you all!

Thank you so much

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.

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By Matthew Morland

☎ 07423 620120

✉ 1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com



The past month's activities have been taking advantage of the (initially) good weather; however, Scouts are a hardy bunch who don't let a little adverse weather spoil our enjoyment of the activities on offer. As my own Scout leader used to say back in the 80s, "you're not made of sugar, so you won't dissolve in the rain!".

Our Beavers took a Halloween walk around the village, enjoyed making things at a crafts evening, had a go at martial arts and took part in a dance evening run by "Cubby", one of our fantastic young leaders. Our Scouts held a mindfulness evening, with meditation and yoga, and learnt about internet safety, while our Scouts went moonlight canoeing and held a Halloween fashion show by making costumes out of old clothes.



Since our last article 1st Henham & Elsenham have taken part in two major activities. The first was our Cubs who took part in the JOTI/ JOTA weekend (Jamboree on the Internet / Jamboree on the Air), which is the world's largest digital Scout event taking place online and over the air. This educational event brings together more than 2 million Scouts in October each year for a weekend of Scouting and friendship, learning about communications technology and connecting with fellow Scouts from over 172 countries.

The second was our door-to-door Poppy Appeal collection which all our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts took part in, led by our volunteer leaders and supported by lots of parent helpers. The weather wasn't the greatest, but our Scouts showed perseverance and character to get to as many houses as possible. They raised over £1,300 for the Royal British Legion.



This is a remarkable achievement for our young people to raise so much money for charity and we are all incredibly proud of what they accomplished. We'd like to thank everyone for their support!

And finally, we'd like to welcome a new volunteer, Kamilah, to our Group. Kamilah has joined our Executive Committee as Group Secretary and we wish her the best of luck in her new role. I am sure she will find volunteering with us a truly rewarding experience. If anyone else is interested in volunteering some time to help us provide Scouting opportunities to young people in our community, please get in touch.



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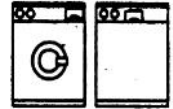
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Food, glorious food!

We are extremely fortunate at Elsenham CofE Primary School to have an amazing catering team who are so committed to ensuring that our children are well fed and enjoy their lunchtime experience in our school dining hall.

What are your memories of school dinners? Were you of the sponge pudding and semolina era or are you from the age of the turkey twizzler?

Today there are strict government regulations on nutrition and portion size that school catering managers must adhere to within ever tightening budgets. On top of this they face the challenges of catering for children's special dietary needs and allergies, let alone tempting the fussy eaters to give foods a try.

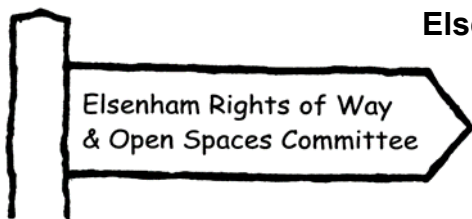
At Elsenham Primary all our meals are cooked from scratch using locally sourced ingredients. No mass-produced sausages served here! Ours come from the butcher as does the very popular roast meat served every Wednesday with the best roast potatoes ever.

Pizza is another favourite with its tasty home-made dough base. Pasta day means the wonderful smell of garlic drifts from the kitchen as the home-made garlic bread is prepared. Jacket potatoes offer a lovely warming, healthy lunch served with tuna or beans and cheese. Every Friday it's fish fillet or fish fingers and chips with a Top Table set up for those children who have impressed the midday staff with their excellent table manners during the week. Mrs Todd joins the children on a specially laid table with a tablecloth and napkins and the children are really keen to get a place at the table.

We also love theme days where our catering manager gets creative with her menu. We are looking forward to what she will come up with for Children in Need Day!

The highlight of the year, however, has to be Christmas dinner. It's an early start for our catering team who will serve up a traditional roast turkey and pigs in blankets, with all the trimmings, which we will all enjoy in our party hats and Christmas jumpers.

Three cheers for our dinner ladies!



Elsenham's Traditional Boxing Day Walk, Monday December 26th

✉ erowos@btinternet.com

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Santa's Grotto @ Home & Eat, Bishop's Stortford 3-24 December

South Mill Arts - info@southmillarts.co.uk

- Jack and the Beanstalk - 3 December to 2 January 2023
- Santa's Grotto 10 - 24 December
- Christmas Gertcha - Monday 19 December
- Adult Panto - 5 January (not suitable for under 16s)

Saffron Hall - to book tickets visit www.saffronhall.com

- The Snowman - Essex Youth Orchestra - Thursday 8 December
- Robin Hood Pantomime - Friday 23 to Thursday 29 December
- A New Year's Celebration - see in the new year with the BBC Concert Orchestra Monday 2 January

ELSENHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

By Moyra Jackson ☎ 647351



Well, there's been rain, then wind, then more rain. The weather is obviously making up for the dry summer. I am blaming climate change, which is quite appropriate as at time of writing COP27 is on.

Our last meeting was 'An Introduction to British Sign Language' with Lindsey Rom and what an interesting meeting it was. We were told that BSL dates back to Roman times and the first recorded marriage ceremony where the vows were exchanged in sign language was as far back as the 16th century.

Lindsey had us signing the alphabet, numbers and a few (very) choice words, which caused great hilarity and promises from us all that we would use them often!! Our competition for your favourite quirky sign also had us all laughing with the selection of weirdly worded signs from around the world.

We had a craft day in October on a Saturday afternoon and were delighted that 15 members came along and helped finish off some of the delights that are now on sale in the Post Office. Once again a huge thank you to Karen and her wonderful team for giving us a space to sell our crafts.

We had a lovely lunch at the Coach & Horses, Thorley Road, Bishop's Stortford – the food was delicious and the staff really friendly.

Every year following the Service of Remembrance, our WI provides refreshments in the Memorial Hall for all those who take part or attend the service in the Memorial Garden. We also have a Field of Remembrance in the Garden in memory of those men named on the Memorial, who gave their lives in conflicts since 1914 in service of this country. Thank you to all who came along this year.



Our meeting this month is our Christmas Extravaganza. The December meeting is always good with lots of festive fun. This year the competition is a handmade Christmas card.

Elsenham WI would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. Our thanks also go to the team at Elsenham News and the magazine that continues to keep us informed of village events.

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

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

Elsenham WI – There's a lot going on!

ST MARY'S CHURCH ELSENHAM

Office@heuchurch.co.uk

Thought For The Month by *Louis Wilson*

I don't know whether this story is true, but it was Christmas morning. A family set off to go to church. They loved singing the carols and the feel of church on Christmas morning.

On returning, they were horrified to see their dog sitting on the drive licking its lips. At its feet were the remains of a large turkey. The dog had stolen their Christmas dinner. Furious and upset, they wondered what to do.

Then one of the children asked how the dog had managed to open the oven to get the turkey. They quickly ran inside and were surprised to discover the oven door closed and the turkey still inside.

To their dismay, they realised that the situation was much worse than they supposed. The dog had in fact stolen and devoured the neighbour's turkey. They did not dare take the dog for a walk for several weeks.

The point is this: most of us, I think, love Christmas. But more than ever, the pressure to prepare for it can completely devour what it's actually all about. And the point of Christmas is the birth of Jesus Christ.

In the Bible, Luke chapter 2, verse 11, there is a heavenly birth announcement: *Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you: he is Christ the Lord.*

David's town is Bethlehem. Saviour means Rescuer. Christ means God's King. 2000 years ago, the eternal God, somehow, stepped out of eternity and

into history as the man Jesus Christ.

Recent weeks have shown us again and again that our world is full of trouble and strife. We're capable of making the mess, but we cannot find anyone capable of sorting it out. The Bible's diagnosis is that we need rescuing from the consequences of our sin and willful rebellion against the God who made us.

And Jesus is the King who can do it, as so many of the carols we sing declare. The baby of Bethlehem grew up to die on a cross, where he bears our sin, begins to reverse its horrible effects and opens up the way to God.

Please don't let the real meaning of Christmas be stolen from you. Don't settle for the wrapping paper and miss the present: God so loves this world that Jesus has come. He loves us, restores us, and he makes us clean. Do join us for one of our Christmas services. There will be carols and decorations of course, but I promise that you will also hear more about what it all means and why we need a Saviour.

By the way, we have moved the Christmas Day service in Henham to the earlier time of 10.30 am. We hope that this will make Christmas dinner easier to manage!

With best wishes this Christmas,

Louis

CHURCH EVENTS IN OUR VILLAGES DECEMBER 2022

Church Services

St Mary's, Elsenham 8.45am

Sun 4 BCP Holy Communion
Sun 11 BCP Morning Prayer
Sun 18 Carols by Candlelight, 7pm
Sun 25 Christmas Day Joint All Age Service 9.30am

St Peter's, Ugley 10.00am

Sun 4 BCP Holy Communion
Sun 11 Morning Service
Sun 18 Carols by Candlelight, 4pm
Sun 25 Christmas Day BCP HC

Elsenham Village Hall 10.15am

Sun 4 Holy Communion
Sun 11 Morning Service

St Mary's, Henham 11.15am

Sun 4 Morning Service
Wed 7 Advent Christingle 6.30pm
Sun 11 Holy Communion
Sun 18 Benefice All Age Service,
10.30am

Sat 24 Family Carols 3.00pm

Sat 24 Carols by Candlelight

7.00pm

Sun 25 Christmas Day All Age Service, 10.30am

St Mary's, Henham 6.00pm

Sun 4 Sunday@Six
Sun 11 Sunday@Six

*Look out for **Christmas Windows**, a trail in Henham and Elsenham between December 17 and 24. Check local Facebook pages for details nearer the time.*

Events

Sat 3rd & Sun 4th Christmas Tree Festival, St Mary's Elsenham,

Sat 24th December:
Family Carols Henham Church 3.00pm
Village Carols, Elsenham Memorial Garden 5-5.30pm

office@heuchurch.co.uk

Other Regular Events

SUNDAYS:

St Peter's Junior Church

St Peter's, Ugley 10.00am

Sundays: 4th & 11th

Elsenham Sunday Club/Explorers

(Y1-Y6) Old Franks, Elsenham

10.15am: 4th & 11th

Henham Sunday Club/Explorers

(Reception-Y5) Church Hall, Henham

11.00am Sundays: 4th & 11th

Pathfinders (Y6-Y9)

St Mary's, Henham 6.00pm - leave from service to meet in OSCA

Sundays: 4th & 11th

Crammin' (Y10-Y13)

St Mary's, Henham 6.00pm leave from service to meet in the Church Hall, Henham.

Sundays: 4th & 11th

MID-WEEK AND SATURDAY:

Start the Week with Prayer

Church Hall, Henham 9.30am

Mondays 5th, 12th & 19th

Seekers After School Bible Club

(Y3-Y4) Old Frank's 3.20pm

Mondays: 5th

Christian Play (Y1-Y2)

Rowan House, Elsenham 3.15pm

Tuesdays: 6th & 13th

Little Fishes Pre-School Group

Church Hall, Henham 10.15am

Thursdays: 1st, 8th & 15th

Little Fishes Pre-School Group

Elsenham Memorial Hall 10.00am

Fridays: 2nd, 9th & 16th

Christmas Church Lunch Club

Elsenham Memorial Hall 12.30pm

Friday (2nd Friday of the month): 9th

Afternoon Tea

OSCA, Henham 2.00pm

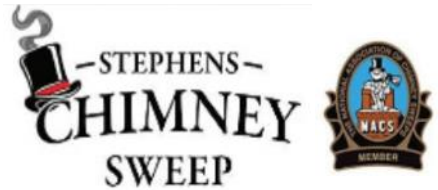
Saturday: 3rd



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CHURCH EVENTS IN OUR VILLAGES JANUARY 2023

Church Services

St Mary's, Elsenham 8.45am

- Sun 1 Joint Benefice Service at Ugley **10.30am**
- Sun 8 All Together Family Service at EVH **10.15am**
- Sun 15 BCP Holy Communion
- Sun 22 BCP Morning Prayer
- Sun 29 BCP Morning Prayer
- St Peter's, Ugley 10.00am**
- Sun 1 Joint Benefice All Age Service **10.30am**
- Sun 8 All Together Family Service at EVH **10.15am**
- Sun 15 Morning Service
- Sun 22 BCP Holy Communion
- Sun 29 Morning Service

Elsenham Village Hall 10.15am

- Sun 1 Joint Benefice Service at Ugley **10.30am**
- Sun 8 All Together Family Service
- Sun 15 Holy Communion
- Sun 22 Morning Service
- Sun 29 Morning Service

St Mary's, Henham 11.15am

- Sun 1 Joint Benefice Service at Ugley **10.30am**
- Sun 8 All Together Family Service at EVH, **10.15am**
- Sun 15 Morning Service
- Sun 22 Holy Communion
- Sat 29 Morning Service

St Mary's, Henham 6.00pm

- Sun 8 Sunday@Six
- Sun 15 Sunday@Six
- Sun 22 Sunday@Six
- Sun 29 Sunday@Six

Other Regular Events

SUNDAYS:

- St Peter's Junior Church**
St Peter's, Ugley 10.00am
 Sundays: 15th, 22nd & 29th
- Elsenham Sunday Club/Explorers**
(Y1-Y6) Old Franks, Elsenham
10.15am: 15th, 22nd & 29th
- Henham Sunday Club/Explorers**
(Reception-Y5) Church Hall, Henham
11.00am Sundays: 15th, 22nd & 29th
- Pathfinders (Y6-Y9)**
St Mary's, Henham 6.00pm - leave from service to meet in OSCA
 Sundays: 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th
- Crammin' (Y10-Y13)**
St Mary's, Henham 6.00pm followed by 7.00pm at The Church Hall, Henham. Sundays: 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th

MID-WEEK AND SATURDAY:

- Start the Week with Prayer**
Church Hall, Henham 9.30am
 Mondays 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th
- Seekers After School Bible Club**
(Y3-Y4) Old Frank's 3.20pm
 Mondays 16th, 23rd & 30th
- Christian Play (Y1-Y2)**
Rowan House, Elsenham 3.15pm
 Tuesdays: 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st
- Little Fishes Pre-School Group**
Church Hall, Henham 10.15am
 Thursdays: 12th, 19th & 26th
- Little Fishes Pre-School Group**
Elsenham Memorial Hall 10.00am
 Fridays 13th, 20th & 27th
- Church Lunch Club**
Elsenham Memorial Hall 12.30pm
 Friday (2nd & 4th Friday of the month): 13th & 27th
- Afternoon Tea**
OSCA, Henham 2.00pm
 Saturday: 21st

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NATURAL OUTLOOK

By Heather Salvidge ☎ 814153



We do have some splendid sunsets and sunrises at this time of year like this one from my notes: 'thick, white frost lifting, sun break violent gold/orange breasting the east horizon; medium loosely connected clouds forming a medium height ceiling which became red when the sun rose a little more – a real shepherd's warning'. Over Christmas, though, it was so wet that the Boxing Day walk had to be cancelled but we can expect very cold weather as well.

Although we don't have all the open spaces in central Elsenham that we did have, more birds and creatures still do tend to come in to the village in mid-winter. There is often a gang of jackdaws "chacking" away around the surgery and there are jays about after hazel nuts and walnuts as are the squirrels. Both of these bury lots of them 'for later' but the ones they forget could turn some gardens into miniature forests. When it is quiet, magpies and pied wagtails gather on the playing field, sometimes joined by mixed flocks of seagulls seeking refuge from stormy coasts.

The field between Hall Road and Elsenham Place has, hitherto, hosted feeding groups or flocks of starlings, crows, jackdaws, pied wagtails, Canada geese and winter visitors such as redwings and fieldfares and occasional grey lag geese so long as they are not disturbed as that pasture has been grazing land for over hundreds of years. Back in our garden we too get jays and magpies plus jackdaws, crows and rooks and 'the usuals' sparrows, various finches and tits, robins and dunnocks, pigeons, collared doves and blackbirds which do their best to consume all the berries from all the cotoneasters that we have. Sometimes there are wonderful rare visitors e.g. a redpoll, a male blackcap and a pair of stock doves which stayed for six months and a special treat was a brief visit from a nuthatch.

We hope to visit the coast where we would aim for the Abberton Nature Reserve and the Abberton Reservoir over the road from it, Blue House Farm and Fingringhoe Wick. At the reservoir the geese and mallards and so on are sufficiently 'tame' to expect to be fed. Some of the others that use it are less so e.g. smew ducks, the females have ginger/brown heads, white throat and breast, grey underparts and white wing patches, whereas the males have paler grey underparts, bold white head, neck, crown and back parts with black eye patch and other black markings. Very handsome. Around the Nature Reserve are more species on land and water which are less tame, such as Canada and greylag geese, golden eye, mallard, tufted ducks, wigeon, pochard, coots and mallards to name a few. Blue House Farm and the 'Wick' are good sites for some of these and for brent geese.

Apparently January 2022 was the sunniest January recorded since 1919. But I shall remember 2022 for the drought, the heat, the weird autumn and all the spiders!

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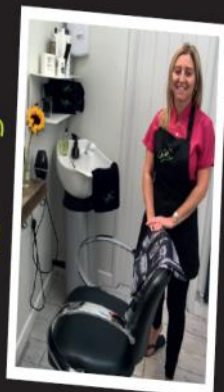
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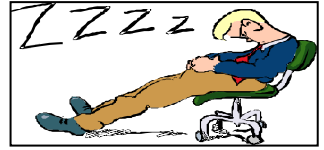


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Ray's Reflections

Ray's Reflections



The tradition of an illuminated tree in our village at Yule Tide goes back well over sixty years. The late Joe Robinson who lived in Station Road prepared a "string" of coloured light bulbs for erection on a fir tree within the Memorial Gardens. Joe used his expertise as an electrician, he was responsible for much of the work at Elsenham Hall. Sir Walter Gilbey had a 110V electricity supply a considerable time before "mains" electricity came to the Village in the late 1940s.

That early set of Christmas tree lights was the property of Elsenham Parish Council and was stored within the "old" village Hall. Some brave villagers will remember climbing the fir tree to erect those lights. The tradition of singing Carols around a village tree goes back decades.

Indeed, many quite wonderful happenings occurred within Elsenham at Christmas. In the early 1950s "Elsenham Place" was the home of Sir Nigel and Lady Mordaunt and they had two sons. A charming Christmas Ritual was begun. About twelve children from the local primary school, accompanied by the local vicar, the Reverend Treadwell would arrive. Initially they would visit the two boys' bedrooms, and sing Carols at the foot of their beds. They would then be invited into the kitchen, where they would each be given a mug of cocoa.

Also in the early 1950s, the Sunday School would organise a Christmas Party. Mr Jones accompanied by Mrs Cracknell on the Village Hall piano would lead the singing. I would be there with other members of the Sunday School partaking of jelly and cake and hoping to get a book as a present for good attendance.

**Happy Christmas to
you All.**

*Ray
Franklin*



Hedge Cutting

Now that the birds' nesting season is officially over the Parish Council are arranging to have the hedges on land that it owns cut by contractors over the winter.

Can we take this opportunity to remind householders that it is their responsibility to maintain their hedges. If your hedge, plants or tree are overhanging the pavement please, please, please cut them back and clear away what you cut.

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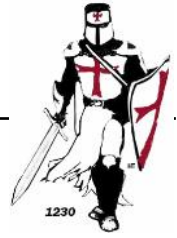
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ELSENHAM VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

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

🌐 www.elsenham-history.co.uk



Our last meeting of the year featured a talk by Richard Till about the Cutlers of Thaxted. In the latter half of the 14th Century the settlement had the largest cutlery manufacturing business in the country. The blade smiths who smelted the iron and steel to make the knife blades tended to have their workshops clustered around Stony Lane and Fishmarket St near the site of the Corn Exchange. The Corn Exchange wasn't built until 1430 – 1450, by when the cutlery industry was in decline. The hafters who made the handles tended to be spread through the community wherever they could find accommodation. Blades and handles were taken to the Merchant Cutlers who assembled the knives and sold them on. It should be mentioned that at this time forks hadn't been invented and everyone had their own knife that they carried around in a suitable sheath.

It is thought the first generation of cutlers came to Thaxted around 1360 from London to escape the Black Death. They were brought to the area after the then Lord of the Manor, Hugh de Audley, Earl of Gloucester declared Thaxted a borough making it an extremely attractive place to do business. The names of these early cutlers, e.g. Broxheude, Herlinge, Pamphelon and Clerevaux suggest that some of these people may have come from abroad before initially settling in London.

Cutlery was very big business at this time and reference to records of litigation showed that one maker owed £50 for scrap iron and another £50 for timber. In today's money, £50 is equivalent to half a million pounds, so big business indeed.

Scrap iron was imported from Germany via Ipswich Docks because the scrap was purer and made a better knife when combined with small amounts of steel that was imported from Spain via London Docks. The timber was sourced from large estates flanking Chelmsford and was used to make charcoal that in turn was used to melt the iron and steel to make the blades. There is also evidence that some ivory was imported from Iceland and Greenland to make posh handles for upmarket knives.

From about 1420 the industry started to decline when Sheffield started to produce cutlery of its own and by 1480 had almost completely ceased. In the few years that it was active however, Thaxted was the predominant manufacturer of quality knives.

Our next meeting will take place on Wednesday 8th March 2023 and will include our AGM. The talk that evening will be given by Chris Bush and will recount the "History of Park Road". As always, visitors will be very welcome for a small fee, just two pounds. This is the first meeting of the year however so for just five pounds, you can become a member and enjoy four interesting evenings of talks through the year. Surely a bargain.

Finally may I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year.



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In September members of Stansted and Thorley u3as spent a most enjoyable and interesting week in the Northeast. They visited Holy Island, Bamburgh, Seahouses, Beamish Open Air Museum, Durham, Hexham and the “Angel of the North” statue. We thank Thorley u3a for inviting us and for the photo.

At October’s General Meeting Martin Lloyd, a former immigration official, traced the development of the passport from a handwritten note to today’s bulkier format. This proved an intriguing probe into the passport stories which shaped their history. Assassins who, in the nineteenth century, caused the rules to be changed forever. A spy with a mysterious passport and a traitor, William Joyce, “Lord Haw Haw,” hanged by the passport he should never have had.



The General Meeting on December 15th is the Christmas Lunch at Bury Lodge. The Speaker Programme for 2023 General Meetings, although still to be confirmed, is complete and available on the internet. At the General Meeting on January 19th Peter Maggs’s talk will be called “The Murder in the Red Barn”. He has comprehensively researched a long-ago murder in deepest rural Suffolk and specialises in historical investigation and is the author of several books.

Good News! The Saturday Seminars will return in 2023. The first will be on 25th February, timed to coincide with the anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The topic is “Old Russia to European State - a History of Conflict between Ukraine and Russia” and we are delighted that David Morson, who has led several previous excellent seminars, will be presenting. The seminar will be at the Free Church Hall, on Chapel Hill, Stansted, starting at 9.30am with pre-booking only. Tickets cost £7 and will be available from 9th January via the events page on our website or at the General Meetings in January and February.

Learn, Laugh, Live!

GARDEN HINT

Look out for pests such as glasshouse whitefly, mealybug and scale insects on indoor plants, as these can remain active and cause damage throughout the winter.

**COMING
SOON**

Elsenham Playing Field



We are excited about the new Elsenham Playing Field Park refurbishment. The works are starting on the 7th of November 2022 and if weather permits all works will be complete before Christmas.

The park will be closed while the refurbishment takes place.

Dania Construction's founder Laura Tarjuman will also offer a school engagement for the local children to attend site and watch works through the fencing from a safe place. We look forward to seeing you on the launch day, more details on the date of this will be announced closer to completion of the works.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

By Frances Lambert ☎ 07771 728332



As you look at Facebook for the latest news in the village, things for sale and wanted, and what people are up to, have you also noticed the entries that ask you questions about yourself? “Have you been to any of these countries?” “What’s your favourite holiday destination?” they all seem harmless and a bit of fun, and from the number of answers they get, so do lots of people who reply to them.

But behind your answers a dishonest person can gather a lot of information about you, and I have noticed the same people replying to a lot of these entries, and from there hackers can often work out your passwords from your replies and then hack into your accounts.

When you put photos of your child’s birthday on Facebook with their name and how old they are, you are also giving the hackers more information about you, as many people use their child’s name and date of birth as a password as it is easy to use and remember. It is lovely to see your holiday photos, but wait until you get back, as this tells people your house may be unoccupied.

Be careful what information you give away to strangers when you answer a fun quiz on Facebook, it may look fun, but it could also have a darker side. How many people live in your home? This tells them if you live alone, or how many teenage children do you have. To a burglar it says there is only one person in the house or there could be gaming stations and laptops for the teenagers in the house.

They could be harmless quizzes, but to some people it tells them a lot about you. Finally, if you receive a Facebook friend request from someone you know, check with them first that they have sent it. Hackers can see who your friends are on Facebook, then send you a scam friend request using your friend’s name, as it is someone you know you say yes, and you have then let a hacker into your computer, and access to all your friend’s names.

If you have any information regarding minor incidents contact Essex Police on ☎101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on ☎0800 555 111. **For urgent help dial ☎ 999**

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



St Clare Hospice’s Recycle your Christmas tree campaign is returning once again this winter! This fantastic recycling programme is an eco-friendly way to dispose of your tree after the yuletide season, whilst also helping your local hospice charity. This year we will be collecting from your postcode area.

www.stclarehospice.org.uk/recycle-christmas-tree





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CAN YOU HELP?

We are looking for help with delivering *Elsenham News* to Fullers End in particular but also to cover holidays around the village.

Each month you would have a bundle of 20-30 magazines dropped off for delivery that weekend. Sometimes, we need help to cover for holidays too. This would not be every month and I would contact you as and when you are needed. If you think you could help with either of these, then please contact

**Chris Bowker,
elsenhamsnews@hotmail.co.uk
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THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Ken McDonald, Secretary



Before the middle of the twentieth century most people did not have watches; they relied on public clocks which could be seen at railway stations, post offices and other public buildings - and on church towers. This reminds me of the lines written in 1912 by the homesick poet, Rupert Brooke:

*“Stands the church clock at ten to three
And is there honey still for tea?”*

The Hundred Parishes has a variety of interesting church clocks. In Furneux Pelham, St Mary's clock (right) is topped by Old Father Time and the words “Time Flies, Mind Your Business”. One wonders what prompted those words to be included.



The bell tower at Sheering has two clock faces which were installed in the 1940s to remember those who served in the War. The north-facing one tells us to “Work and Pray” whilst the west-facing proclaims “Today Is Yours”.

The church at High Wych was built in 1861 to the design of local architect George Edward Pritchett. Its clock (left) is almost as wide as the thin flintstone tower on which it is mounted.



Hinxton possibly has our oldest church clock (right), believed to date from 1700 AD, albeit extensively renovated in 1809 when a new face was fitted.

Artist Eric Ravillious lived in Great Bardfield and his wood engraving of the church of St Mary the Virgin clearly shows the enormous clock (left) that was added to commemorate the coronation of King George V in 1912. One assumes the residents of Great Bardfield are never late for work or church. The engraving has been adopted as the logo of The Hundred Parishes.



I hope you will keep an eye open for the variety of clocks to be found around the Hundred Parishes.

The Hundred Parishes Society's trustees join me in wishing you a Merry Christmas.

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



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ELSENHAM BOWLS AND SOCIAL CLUB

By Sue Waite



Hello everyone, I hope you are all well – not long now until Christmas – that either makes you groan or cheer, hopefully it's a cheery thought.

The Green continues to provide work for the team on a regular basis. This entails brushing the green to remove the dew every day, cutting and aeration and various fertilisers and soil nutrients being applied to keep fungal disease away. There is always lots to do so if you fancy getting involved then come along on a Wednesday morning each week. Freddie Fox has paid a visit to the green as well, digging a big hole. This means the electric fence has had to be erected to keep him out.

Therese Clear was going to purchase a bench in memory of her late husband Peter but knowing that we needed a new mower, she has purchased this instead in his honour.

Touchpoint continues to use the Club as a venue for its Food Share every Tuesday morning from 9.30. This is proving to be very popular and is helping to stop food wastage. Come along with your bag and get some goodies. Elsenham Village Café also uses the bowls club for coffee mornings every other Tuesday from 9.30. We have lots of lovely people who come along and good friendships have been made.

Knit and natter continues on the second Monday of each month. We have many talented people who come along and who would happily teach you how to knit or crochet or you could be like me and just come for the delicious cake. The club is open Monday – Friday from 7pm. Pool league is on Monday, Crib is Tuesday, Darts on Wednesday, short mat on Thursday, club night on Friday. The club is open to all members and the drinks are cheaper than elsewhere. We will be open on Christmas Eve for a social get together with nibbles so if you are not busy then come and join us.

Take care everyone and have a wonderful Christmas.

AID FOR ROMANIA

By Richard Peake ☎ 850374

The October lorry left on October 27 and hopefully has arrived safely as it now must clear EU customs in Rotterdam. I will fly out to meet the lorry in Romania and help with the donation of aid to poor families and then prepare the charity shop with the goods for sale.

Our warehouse is now empty, and we are collecting for the April 2023 lorry. If you have any donations, please contact Richard Peake first on ☎ 850374 to arrange delivery or collection of your items. We will be collecting at 1 Hall Close, Henham during December and January.

Full details of the items required can be obtained from Richard and will also be published in the next issue of Elsenham News.

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ELSENHAM TENNIS CLUB

By Petra Studholme 📞 814667



Essex Small Club League

After our great results in the summer, we have entered a Men's and a Mixed team – let the force be with us for the forthcoming season. Matches started in November!

Casual play on a Wednesday and Friday morning

We have groups playing on those days and would love more villagers to join in. Varied standards but the emphasis is on having fun and getting some exercise in. We had some members who recently joined who had not played since school and they are now hooked on tennis again. Why not try it?

Cardio tennis – open to non-members

Cardio Tennis is an engaging group fitness programme featuring the heart pumping effects of tennis drills, games, and skills delivering the ultimate full body and calorie burning aerobic and anaerobic workout. Cardio Tennis is a very social activity for all ages, ability and fitness levels so why not try it. Inquiries to our head coach, Steve Smith via phone, text to or 07790 561 817 or via email to stevesmith865@hotmail.com.

Hire our courts – open to non-members

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

Half price membership available as of 1 October

We will be offering half-price membership from 1 October to 31 March next year so you can join for as little as £35 as a full adult member, £8 as a junior. Student, senior, couples and family rates also half-price. To find out more about us, go to www.elsenhamtennisclub.co.uk.

Please note that the prices you see right now are full membership from 1 April to 31 August. The new rates will only be open to book as of 1 October. If you are interested now, please get in touch via email mail@elsenhamtennisclub.co.uk.

We have individual and group coaching sessions, cardio run by our dedicated and experienced coach Steve.

Weekly Activities

Tuesday evening – 6.30pm cardio tennis

Tuesday evening – 7.30pm club night

Wednesday morning – 10am casual play

Thursday evening – 6.30pm group coaching (rusty racket)

Thursday evening – 7.30pm cardio tennis

Friday morning – 10am casual play

Sunday afternoon – 2pm casual play



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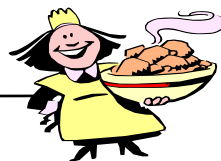
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COOKERY CORNER

By Sue Johnson ☎ 812704



This recipe belongs to my good friend Joan Boughton, who supplied recipes for the village magazine over many years until she left the village and moved up to Scotland. The recipe was published again in the very first Elsenham Cookbook compiled by Joan and has definitely stood the test of time. It is especially good at Christmas!

ORANGE SPONGE PUDDINGS WITH WHISKY SAUCE (serves 6)

4oz (110g) butter or margarine, plus extra to grease
4oz (110g) caster sugar
Grated rind and juice of one orange
2 eggs, beaten
6oz (175g) self-raising flour

WHISKY SAUCE

7 fl oz (200ml) fresh orange juice
4 tablespoons whisky
6 tablespoons medium cut marmalade
1 tablespoon caster sugar
1 tablespoon cornflour

Preheat the oven to 180°C/160°C fan/gas 4. Lightly grease 6 small pudding basins, moulds or ramekin dishes.

Beat together the butter (or margarine), sugar and orange rind until light and fluffy. Gradually beat in the eggs and flour until well mixed. Fold in the orange juice.

Divide the mixture between the six dishes. Place them on a baking tray and bake for 20-25 minutes until firm and golden.

While the puddings are baking, make the whisky sauce. Mix the cornflour with 1 tablespoon orange juice. Heat the remaining orange juice, whisky, marmalade and sugar in a small pan over a medium heat. Bring to the boil. Add some of the hot liquid to the cornflour mix, then pour back into the saucepan, stirring well until the sauce thickens.

Allow puddings to cool for 5 minutes. Carefully slide a knife around each pudding and turn out onto individual dishes. Spoon over the hot sauce.

CHEF'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

These puddings are fine made in advance and frozen. The sauce can also be made, cooled and re-heated as required.

Touchpoint Community

Foodshare



The Foodshare Project opened in April 2022 at Crafton Green, Stansted, with the aim of tackling food waste, stopping good quality fresh produce going to landfill and supporting our community with free good quality food. We shared almost 15 tonnes of fresh produce between July and September 2022, all of which would otherwise have gone to waste, which has surpassed all of our expectations.

This project was extended to Elsenham in August 2022. Elsenham Foodshare aims to run every Tuesday at 9.30am to 11am and is located inside Elsenham Bowls Club next to the Memorial Hall and Tennis Courts, inside the recreation ground.

We aim to run the Foodshare every week but it does always depend on the produce available and as most collections are made the night before we may not always be able to confirm until short notice. So far we have run almost every week since August and so please assume that the Foodshare will be taking place unless we confirm otherwise the night before. Please keep an eye on the following Facebook Group pages for updates. (Elsenham & Henham Newslines, Elsenham Village and What's On In Elsenham).

We would not be able to run this project without our amazing team of volunteers who collect the surplus produce, sort and store it at our premises with multiple fridges and freezers, transport the produce to the Foodshare and set up and run the Foodshare mornings. We have some great produce each week including fresh vegetables, delicious bakery items and chilled and frozen foods from supermarkets such as Waitrose, Tesco, Aldi and Sainsbury amongst other generous suppliers.

Absolutely everyone is welcome and all produce is completely free. Please do come along, bring a supermarket bag, tell your friends, family and neighbours and we can all play a part in stopping perfectly good food from going to waste.

For further information about the work that Touchpoint does in our community visit www.thetouchpoint.org

From The Parish Registers

Baptism: On October 23 at Henham Church, India Jane Hermet.

Funeral: Memorial Service on November 8 Elsenham Church, Gordon William Barker.

Burial of Ashes: On November 5 in Henham Churchyard, Nicholas Binks.

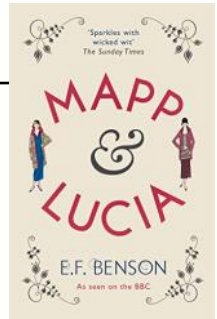
Church Contact Details

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

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

MAPP AND LUCIA by EF Benson

Reviewed by Marion Giles for Elsenham Book Group



“Subtly brilliant comedy of social rivalry between the wars. Emmeline Lucas (known universally to her friends as Lucia) is an arch-snob of the highest order. In Miss Elizabeth Mapp of Mallards, Lucia meets her match. Ostensibly the most civil and genteel of society ladies, there is no plan too devious, no plot too cunning, no depths to which they would not sink, in order to win the battle for social supremacy. Using as their deadly weapons, garden parties, bridge evenings and charming teas, the two combatants strive to outcharm each other - and the whole of Tilling society - as they vie for the position of doyenne of the town...” So says the blurb on the back of the book.

‘Sparkles with wicked wit.’ *Sunday Times*

This was the choice of the book group this month.

In the village of Riseholme, Daisy is involved in the staging of an Elizabethan pageant in the summer of 1929. She has been thrust into the limelight as her friend and rival Emmeline Lucas (known as Lucia to her friends) has been in mourning following the death of her husband. However, Lucia has recovered from mourning and is starting to throw herself back into the events of the village with her accustomed vigour but is no longer in charge of the pageant so makes things as awkward for Daisy as possible. Pretentious and snobbish, she decides Riseholme no longer offers any challenges so she decides to holiday in the town of Tilling. She visits the town with her faithful friend, George. Once there, she decides to rent 'Mallards' from Miss Mapp. George is also persuaded to rent a property in Tilling. The Tilling characters, pretty much fit most stereotypes you would expect from a novel set in the 1930s.

Miss Elizabeth Mapp is used to being top of the social ranking in Tilling and despite renting her property to Lucia, there is no way she is going to let an outsider claim her position. So begins a battle of one-upmanship, peppered with queenly airs as the two combatants attempt to out-do and out-snob each other.

It must be said that both main characters are pretentious and somewhat patronising although there is a lot of humour in the writing. One member of the book group described it as charmingly ridiculous. Perhaps best in small doses

The novel has translated well to the small screen. If you are of a certain age, you may remember the TV series in the 1980s with Prunella Scales, Geraldine McEwan and Nigel Hawthorne. Another version was aired in 2014 with Anna Chancellor, Miranda Richardson and Steve Pemberton. To quote the characters 'au reservoir' until the new year. Happy Yule to you all.

Editorial Information

Articles

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

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

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

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

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

General Notes

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

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

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

The editors' decision is final.

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

Subscriptions

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

Advertising

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Patricia Davis
Anne White
Nyaradzo Chabata
Angie Wenlock**

Previous issues of Elsenham News are available on the ECA Website

www.ElsenhamsCommunityAssociation.org.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Tree Festival Elsenham Church December 3 and 4
Boxing Day Walk December 26 at 11am

VILLAGE CONTACTS

Airport Roadside Parking		0800 731 2385
Beavers	1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com	
Bowls Club	Jean Platt	816151
Brownies	elsenhambrownies@outlook.com	
Church Office (Old Franks, High St, Elsenham)	Anna Hicks	814285
County Councillor (Stansted)	Ray Gooding	813103
Cricket Club	David Brown	831011
Cub Scouts	1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com	
ECA (Chairman)	Allan Hathaway	813385
ECA (Secretary)	Moyra Jackson	647351
ECA Website	www.ElsenhamCommunityAssociation.org.uk	
Elsenham 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)	Gemma Mills	07745 036066
Guides elsenhamguides@gmail.com	Gemma Schafer	07792 572423
Henham & District Garden Society	Moyra Jackson	647351
History Society	Mike Rea evhs12@hotmail.co.uk	813634
Member of Parliament	Kemi Badenoch	0207 219 5214
Memorial Hall Bookings	Cheryl Rae	817834
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator	Francis Lambert	07771 728332
	francislambertnhw@btinternet.com	
Parish Clerk - Louise Johnson	louise.epc@gmail.com	07456 791727
Elsenham Parish Council Website	www.elsenham-pc.gov.uk	
Police		101
Post Office		812175
Rainbows	elsenhamrainbows@outlook.com	
Scouts	1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com	
St Mary's Fabric Fund	Elizabeth Barker	813543
Tennis Club	Petra Studholme	814667
Tots & Toddlers	Dawn Temple	814406
Uttlesford District Councillors	Petrina Lees	816675
(for Elsenham & Henham)	Garry LeCount	07836 346717
Village Hall Bookings	Annie Gleeson	07809 490731
Village Hall email address	elsenhamvillagehall@gmail.com	647729
Womens Institute Secretary	Gill Hathaway	813385
WI website	www.elsenhamwi.co.uk	
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.



Welcome to our
Farm Shop & Tearoom
The Barn, Pledgdon Hall, Henham,
Bishops Stortford, CM22 6BJ

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

Open Monday to Saturday 9.00 to 17.00 (CLOSED TUESDAYS), Sundays 9.00 to 16.00, Pig Sty Tearoom open 9.00 to 15.30



About our Farm Shop

We stock a vast array of produce.

Fresh fruit and vegetables sourced from New Spitalfields Market, local meats and poultry from Priors Hall, bread and cakes from The Brown Bread Co. & beers and spirits from local microbreweries & distilleries. Foods and drinks from around the world & a large gluten free range and many vegan items.



Open Monday to Saturday 9.00 to 17.00 (CLOSED TUESDAYS), Sundays 9.00 to 16.00, Pig Sty Tearoom open 9.00 to 15.30



Pig Sty Tearoom

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

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

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



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