

Elsenham News

St. Mary's Elsenham Fabric Fund present :

Christmas Tree Festival

elsenhamsnews@hotmail.co.uk



In St. Mary's Church
December 2nd - 3rd

10.30 - 5.00

EVERYONE WELCOME

All donations go towards maintaining
your beautiful Norman Church

December 2023
75p where sold

December 2023

CHURCH EVENTS IN OUR VILLAGES DECEMBER 2023

Church Services

Sunday 3rd December

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

Sunday 10th December

- 08:45 Prayer Book Holy Communion,
Elsenham Church
10:00 Morning Service, Ugley Church
10:15 Morning Service,
Elsenham Village Hall
16:00 Carols by Candlelight,
Elsenham Church
18:00 Sunday@6, HUSCH*, Henham

Sunday 17th December

- 10:15 Family Carols,
Elsenham Village Hall
16:00 Carols by Candlelight, Ugley
18:00 Sunday@6, HUSCH*, Henham

Sunday 24th December

- 10:15 Joint Benefice Service,
Elsenham Church
15:00 Family Carols, HUSCH*, Henham
17:00 Village Carols, Elsenham
Memorial Gardens
19:00 Carols by Candlelight, HUSCH*
Henham

Christmas Day

- 10:00 Christmas Communion,
Ugley Church
10:15 Family Service,
Elsenham Village Hall

Sunday 31st December

- 10:15 Joint Benefice Service,
Ugley Church

Events

Sat 2 Dec - Sun 3 Dec 10:30-17:00

Christmas Tree Festival
at Elsenham Church

Sun 3 Closing Service at 17:00

* HUSCH: Henham & Ugley School Hall

Other Regular Events

SUNDAYS:

**Elsenham & Henham Sunday Club/
Explorers (Reception-Y5)**
(Y1-Y6) Starts at EVH then on to
Old Frank's, Elsenham

10.15am Sundays: 10th
Pathfinders (Y6-Y9)
HUSCH*, Henham 6.00pm - leave
from Sunday@6 to meet in the
Church Hall, Henham. Sundays: 3rd,
10th & 17th

Crammin' (Y10-Y13)
HUSCH*, Henham 6.00pm followed
by 7.00pm at OSCA, Henham
Sundays: 3rd, 10th & 17th

MID-WEEK AND SATURDAY:

Start the Week with Prayer
Church Hall, Henham 9.30am
Mondays: 4th, 11th & 18th

Seekers After School Bible Club
(Y3-Y4) Old Frank's 3.20pm
Mondays: 4th

Christian Play (Y1-Y2)
Rowan House, Elsenham 3.15pm
Tuesdays: 5th, 12th

Little Fishes Pre-School Group
Church Hall, Henham 10.30am
Thursday: 7th & 14th

Little Fishes Pre-School Group
Elsenham Memorial Hall 10.00am
Fridays: 8th & 15th

Church Lunch Club
Elsenham Memorial Hall 12.30pm
Fridays: (2nd Friday of the month): 8th

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

THE NEWS REPORT

From The Editors



Christmas is just around the corner and we hope you use the information contained herein to take advantage of the many events on offer to make this a wonderful season for the village.

It is surprising how many events and activities can be held in such a small place as Elsenham, but just proves what a great place it is to live.

We hope that a number of these events will remind many of the true meaning of Christmas. It is a time of year when Christians celebrate the birth of Christ. Alas, it seems more to do with commercial extravagance these days. Whatever your views, we hope you enjoy your time and you and your family and friends stay healthy and safe.

Elsenham News will not be with you in January - we will be enjoying our annual break - but look forward to returning to serve you in February. In the meantime it just remains for us to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

With best wishes to our regular contributors, our advertisers and you, our readers.



Environmental tip for the month:

Walk to the village shop, leave the car at home.

Regular features

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Elsenham Village Regular Monthly or Quarterly Activities

Parish Council 1st **Monday** of month 8pm (excl. Bank Holidays) Memorial Hall
 Natter Night 2nd **Monday** of month 7.30pm The Crown
 Elsenham EAGLES 4th **Monday** of month 7.30 - 9pm The Crown
 Henham & District Garden Society 1st **Tuesday** of month 2.30 - 4pm Memorial Hall
 Community Choir 1st & 3rd **Tuesday** of the month 7- 8.30pm Village Hall
 Life Drawing 2nd and 4th **Tuesday** of month 7.30 - 9.30pm Village Hall
 Village History Society 2nd **Wednesday** of month quarterly 7.45pm Memorial Hall
 Women's Institute 3rd **Thursday** of month 7.45pm Memorial Hall
 Church Lunch Club 2nd & 4th **Friday** of month 12.30pm Memorial Hall
 Elsenham Farmers Market usually last **Saturday** of month 12 - 2pm Village Hall

December 2023 diary

| | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Sat 2 | Elsenham Farmers Market | Village Hall 4-6pm |
| Sat 2 & 16 | Bingo | Bowls & Social Club 7 for 7.30 |
| Mon 4 | Parish Council Meeting | Memorial Hall 8pm |
| Tues 5 & 19 | Elsenham Community Choir | Village Hall 7pm |
| Thurs 7 & 14 | Pop-up Cakery & Barista Bar | Memorial Hall 8.45am-2pm |
| Fri 8 | Church Lunch Club | Memorial Hall 12.30pm |
| Sun 10 | Carols by Candlelight | St Mary's, Elsenham 4pm |
| Mon 11 | Natter Night | The Crown 7.30pm |
| Tues 12 | Life Drawing | Village Hall 7.30pm |
| Tues 12 | District Councillors' Surgery | Orwell Hse, Station Rd 6.30pm |
| Thurs 21 | WI | Memorial Hall 7.45pm |
| Fri 22 | Club Christmas evening supper | Bowls & Social Club 7pm |
| Sun 24 | Village Carols | Memorial Garden 5-5.30pm |
| Mon 26 | Boxing day ramble - meet at | Playing Field, Top Car Pk 10.30am |

January 2024 diary

| | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Tues 2 & 16 | Elsenham Community Choir | Village Hall 7pm |
| Sat 6 & 20 | Bingo | Bowls & Social Club 7 for 7.30 |
| Mon 8 | Parish Council Meeting | Memorial Hall 8pm |
| Mon 8 | Natter Night | The Crown 7.30pm |
| Tues 9 & 23 | Life Drawing | Village Hall 7.30pm |
| Thurs 11 | ECA Meeting | Memorial Hall 7.45 for 8pm |
| Fri 12 & 26 | Church Lunch Club | Memorial Hall 12.30pm |
| Fri 12 | Flower Show AGM | Memorial Hall 8pm |
| Sat 13 | Elvis Night | Bowls & Social Club 7.30 for 8 |
| Thurs 18 | WI | Memorial Hall 7.45pm |
| Mon 22 | Elsenham Eagles | The Crown 7.30pm |
| Sat 27 | Elsenham Farmers Market | 12.30 - 2.30pm Village Hall |
| Sat 27 | Bowls & Social Club Quiz | Bowls & Social Club 7.30 |

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 |
| | 4-4.30pm | Rascals (3-4yrs) | Memorial Hall (term time) |
| | 4.30-5.30pm | Rascals (5-7yrs) | Memorial Hall (term time) |
| | 5.30-7pm | Rascals (8-12yrs) | Memorial Hall (term time) |
| | 7-7.45pm | Boxercise | Elsenham Village Hall |
| | 7.30-8.30pm | Shape to the beat | Memorial Hall (not 1st Monday) |
| Tuesday | 9.30-10.30am | Touchpoint Food Share | Bowls & Social Club |
| | 9.30-11.30am | Village Café Coffee | Memorial Hall |
| | 4.45-5.45pm | Rainbows | Memorial Hall (term-time) |
| | 4.45-5.45pm | Beavers | Ugley Village Hall (term-time) |
| | 6-7.15pm | Cubs (Wolf Pack) | Ugley Village Hall (term-time) |
| | 6-7.30pm | Brownies | Memorial Hall (term-time) |
| | 7.30-10.30pm | Tennis Club night | Tennis Courts |
| Wednesday | 8pm | Fitness Yoga/Pilates | Memorial Hall |
| | 9.45-11.30am | Tots & Toddlers | Memorial Hall (term-time) |
| | 5.30-7.30pm | Slimming World | Memorial Hall |
| | 7-9pm | Scouts | Ugley Village Hall (term-time) |
| Thursday | 7.30pm | Aerobics | Elsenham Village Hall |
| | 8.45am-2pm | Cakery & Barista | Memorial Hall |
| | 6-7.15pm | Cubs (Bear Pack) | Ugley Village Hall (term-time) |
| Friday | 6.45-7.45pm | Jump Fit | Elsenham Village Hall |
| | 10-11am | Little Fishes | Memorial Hall (term-time) |
| Saturday | 8.15am-1pm | Tart au Citroen | Playing Field |
| | 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 at Glebe End 11.50 am to 12.20 pm
Next dates - 14 December, 4 and 25 January 2024

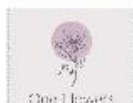
Elsenham Christmas Wreath Workshops

Get into the festive mood by creating your own bespoke door wreath. A varied range of interesting foliage and decorative items, natural to sparkly, are provided. Festive drinks and nibbles included too. Please bring your own scissors or secateurs.

Book via: www.oneflowers.co.uk



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ELSENHAM PARISH COUNCIL NOVEMBER 2023

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



Mr Gary Williams spoke as a member of the **Elsenham News** editorial team. The magazine will run out of money at the end of the calendar year 2024. More funds are needed if it is to be delivered to new estates, and he made a plea for help from the Parish Council. Elsenham Parish Council's Chair explained that any grant could only be for one year and would need to be considered afresh as part of the exercise to set each year's precept.

Ms Buglass gave an update on the Surgery mergers. Information has been sent out to all patients of the practice. Ms Buglass confirmed that the Elsenham Dispensary will not be affected regarding the merger. It was confirmed that if an appointment was at Stansted Surgery, prescriptions could be dispensed from Elsenham Surgery. There have been three separate investigative reports regarding the Surgery at Elsenham, Infection Control, Health and Safety, and Fire. The Surgery failed all three.

Currently there are investigations on how to update the building to be compliant with all required regulations, updating the building including purchasing the site.

The Transport Consultation has been so popular that all transport meetings have been cancelled for this year, to address the numerous responses.

A meeting to discuss stopping airport parking in the villages, arranged by Uttlesford District Council, was held on 2 November in the Elsenham Memorial Hall it was well attended, and many matters were discussed. Thanks were expressed to Elsenham's WI, who provided tea, coffee and cake.

Thanks were given to Uttlesford District Council, that provided a Sports Grant which helped fund the new basketball hoop. The hoop has been installed in the playing field's top car park.

Work to install new play equipment in the Isabel Drive play area has now commenced.

A summary of Uttlesford District Council's draft Local Plan timeline was provided.

Draft Plan (Regulation 18) Consultation: Autumn 2023.
Publication of Submission Plan (Regulation 19) June/July 2024.
Submission to Secretary of State Dec 2024.
Examination 2025.
Adopted Mid-2026.



The next Parish Council meeting will be Monday 4 December, 7.45pm in the Memorial Hall. All members of the public are welcome.



EVER WONDERED WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR RECYCLING?

ALL YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT RECYCLING AND OTHER RUBBISH

SPEAKER: BECKY TOMKINS, UDC WASTE AND RECYCLING OFFICER

THURSDAY 8TH FEBRUARY

7.30PM IN MEMORIAL HALL

REFRESHMENTS

FREE TALK HOSTED BY EAGLES (ELSENHAM ACTION GROUP FOR LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND ELSENHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE)

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*Please follow us on social media for updates; holiday dates and unavoidable cancellations will be posted online. Keep an eye open for our advertising boards on Station Road and Ambrose Corner; if they are out, we are serving!

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

✉ CLlrdonald@uttlesford.gov.uk

☎ 07941 880297

✉ CLlrlees@uttlesford.gov.uk

☎ 07713 074656



We write for the magazine on the weekend of the Remembrance Service. It is always moving and an honour to be part of the ceremony. Our uniform attendees are an absolute credit to their leaders, their units and themselves. The Garden is superbly supplied with poppies, crafted by the Women's Institute. Thank you to all who contribute and attend.

The consultation on the Draft Uttlesford Local Plan went live on 4 November. A Summary Consultation booklet has been sent to every household. (Please contact us if you haven't received one.)

We have, as directed by Government, to allocate over 14,000 homes in Uttlesford. The Plan is not just about housing allocation. It is also about ensuring that Uttlesford remains an attractive place to live, work and visit. The Local Plan will set out where new homes are most sustainably and suitably to be located. It will support the success of our local businesses, seek that the right facilities and infrastructure are delivered by the developers and protect and enhance our natural environment. Elsenham has not been allocated any sites, as frankly, there are not any sites left as speculative development has been rife, due to the absence of a Local Plan, since 2005. Politically we have influenced this plan regarding policy – better housing mix, improving the environmental standards and energy efficiency that new builds must meet. We have not and will not interfere politically in site allocations for political convenience. This approach has failed spectacularly in the past.

Please **do respond** to the consultation. It is important that residents respond, not just to the site allocations but to the policies making up the plan. An unstaffed information point, including display panels and maps, which will give an overview of the proposals and details of how to respond to the consultation, will be in place until the 15th December 2023. This is available during normal opening hours at UDC Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden, CB11 4ER. To view paper versions of the Local Plan there are copies in local libraries and UDC officers.

The website address is www.uttlesford.gov.uk/2023-Draft-Plan-Consultation. You may respond via the website, ✉ localplan@uttlesford.gov.uk and by post to Local Plan Team, UDC offices CB11 4ER.

Our Surgery is on Tuesday 12 December, 18.30, at Orwell House, Station Road, Elsenham.

May we wish you a Peaceful, Healthy, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



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DEVELOPMENT DEVELOPMENTS

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



Uttlesford District Council met in full session on 30 October and decided by a majority that the draft Local Plan consultation should be made public. The deadline for representations is now 5.00 pm on 18 December. The Plan does not propose any more houses in Elsenham, but other proposals will still have an impact on the area.

It is provided that there will be as many as 390 new homes in the north of Stansted Mountfitchet, with 250 to the north of the recent development at Walpole Meadows, and 140 to the east of High Lane and south of Alsa Street. Much of the road traffic from these developments will head south, through Stansted Mountfitchet, resulting in longer queues at the Chapel Hill junction. In Henham, another 112 homes are proposed, following a calculation of eye-watering complexity. I can find nothing to show where they might be situated, but much of the road traffic from Henham will head inevitably through Elsenham and on through the difficult route via Grove Hill and Chapel Hill.

There is a proposal for an employment allocation of three hectares at Gaunts End, which is within Elsenham parish. Some years ago, an application was approved for three multi-storey office blocks, but they were never built, and there is a very large hole quite close to Hall Road as a memento. Perhaps it is intended to make use of the existing hole, or possibly another, even larger, hole is contemplated somewhere nearby.

Some of the chief battle-lines over the Plan are becoming clear. There is a 'Countryside Protection Zone' (CPZ) around three sides of Stansted Airport. To the south of the Airport, it is proposed that a large swathe of land between the A120 and the B1256 should be removed from the CPZ in order to make way for wholesale development. In Elsenham, a total of 470 homes within the CPZ has been approved piecemeal in recent years, without the pretence of a policy change. As recently as June this year, the CPZ was shrugged aside by a member of the Planning Inspectorate in approving 130 houses to the south of the Crown under the S62A provisions (well done if you know what they are - see July 2023 if not). It will be interesting to see whether a fellow Inspector takes a similar view when examining the Local Plan proposals.

Talking of the S62A provisions - you get such stimulating topics in this item - an application has been made direct to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS - fascinating acronyms here too) to put five houses on land just over the parish boundary in Stansted between May Walk and the motorway, with its own access off Stansted Road. An application for 11 homes thereabouts was refused by UDC. Obviously the applicants think that UDC would turn them down again, so they'll give PINS a go. Objections will be made, but 'this is a dodge' is not really a valid planning objection, unfortunately. It can be pointed out that the site is not in the Local Plan proposals, but that carries only very limited weight so far.



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Daisy May's Farm

Hall Road, Elsenham, CM22 6DN

What a grand time we all had during our Hallowe'en week! It was fantastic to see so many of you having 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! There will once more be a gift from Santa himself and there will also be festive story time with hot chocolate and a cookie. Absolutely not to be missed is the **Santa Sleigh Train** driven by **Santa and his helpers!**

Afterwards, a snowy walk through our winter woodland wonderland 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.

These events will be on **Friday, Saturday and Sunday throughout December** but make sure you keep an eye out on our Facebook page for our Christmas opening times. **Booking on our website is essential** so that you don't 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 wish you all a merry Christmas.



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



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ELSENHAM EAGLES

Elsenham Action Group for Local Environmental Sustainability

Contact ✉ elsenhams.action@btinternet.com



Here's a date for your diary!:

“ALL YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT RECYCLING AND OTHER RUBBISH”

Thursday 8 February 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall

Elsenham Eagles and Elsenham WI are working together to bring you this event.

Becky Tomkins, the waste and recycling officer at Uttlesford District Council (UDC), will be visiting Elsenham to give us a talk.

This is your opportunity to learn what happens to the recycling (and other waste) which is collected from our homes by UDC.

It's also your opportunity to ask all the questions you have ever wanted to ask about what happens to our recycling (and non-recyclable items).

Refreshments will be provided by the WI.

Put the date in your diary NOW!

(Just a reminder there will be no January Elsenham News)

In the meantime we wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we look forward to seeing many of you in February.

Here's an idea which could save you energy and money:

Now that the colder weather is here you could use a rolled-up towel to exclude draughts from doors and windows and potentially save yourself £££s.

“Which?” recently tested draught excluders and found a rolled-up towel:

- **“Best on test - didn't even let a strong breeze through**
- **Free (if you have a towel you don't mind using)**
- **Flexible - can fit gaps of all shapes and sizes”**

“Which” says: “Our verdict: Cheap and top of our tests”



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

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EROWOS

By Margaret Shaw

Boxing Day Ramble



Elsenham's Traditional Boxing Day Ramble Tuesday 26 December

- Starting at 10.30am at Elsenham Playing Field top car park.
- Join us for a gentle social ramble - back by 12.30pm
- Everyone welcome – be prepared for mud!
- Wear your new gloves and wellies.
- Bring the children and dogs (dogs on leads please).
- Unfortunately, the paths are probably too difficult for prams or wheelchairs.



THE AUBREY BUXTON NATURE RESERVE

By John Welham, Warden

✉ communications@essexwt.org.uk 🌐 www.essexwt.org.uk

With the recent rains the ponds are refilling nicely but they still have some way to go before they reach capacity and then start flowing into the damp area to the Southern end of the reserve. In this area we find water loving plants such as willow trees and in summer the unwanted Himalayan Balsam. It also means that the entry to the reserve at the Southern end is always muddy in winter. I am pushing for a budget to improve the paths in this area, but unfortunately that won't be happening this winter.

Now we await the arrival of the visiting winter birds. Birds to look out for in the reserve include siskins, similar to a greenfinch but smaller and with a streaked belly. They are often high up in the canopy feeding on alder or birch seeds. Being high up and silhouetted against a dull winter sky can make it tricky to identify them. You will probably need binoculars and then look out for the distinctly forked tail. Another winter visitor, redwings have already arrived and may be seen eating various berries including hawthorn. Further into winter when the berries have gone, they can be seen foraging on the woodland floor in the same way as our more familiar thrushes and blackbirds. Depending on how harsh the weather is in northern Europe the populations of a number of our own domestic species will actually increase in winter. At Aubrey Buxton last year we had increased numbers of blackbirds and jays.

Do let us know what you see.

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ELSENHAM FLOWER SHOW SOCIETY

By Sue Johnson ☎ 812704



ELSENHAM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Elsenham Flower Show Society's AGM will be held in the Memorial Hall on Friday 12 January 2024 at 8.00 pm.

37th
SHOW

Cheese and wine will be provided.

Our Plant Sale in May was a huge success, as was the Flower Show in August, although less well supported than in previous years.

Sadly, we have lost most of our committee recently and our current officers are retiring at the AGM. We need your help with new ideas and fresh young faces to make sure our Show continues to take place in Elsenham. If you've not long moved into the village, here's your chance to become involved!

We are in the process of putting a new committee together who are determined that the Flower Show will continue, but **we need your support**. This is our Village Flower Show – we don't want to lose it! Please do come along and support us.

Season's Greetings to you all!

Sue Johnson – Secretary since 1986 (now retiring)

From The Parish Registers

Funeral:

A cremation service on 21st November 2023 at Cam Valley Crematorium, followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at Elsenham Church, John Botterill, aged 87 years, formerly of Henley Manor Care Home.

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

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

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



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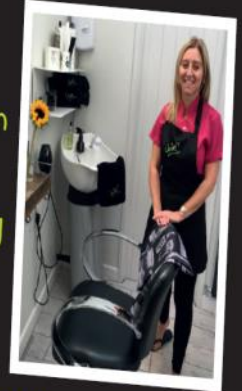
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WHAT IS THE TOUCHPOINT COMMUNITY FOOD SHARE?

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

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

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

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

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✉ info@thetouchpoint.org
🌐 www.thetouchpoint.org



ELSENHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

By Moyra Jackson ☎ 647351



After storms Babet and Ciaran, Elsenham has been well and truly shaken and a bit “drookit” (translation available on request!). I spent a lovely weekend in Edinburgh and missed the worst of the weather – a phenomenon in itself.

We had a fabulous Charity Night for our last meeting. November is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and donations for refreshments and raffle on the night went to that charity. We had poppies on sale too with all donations going to the British Legion Poppy Appeal. The speakers for the evening were Angela and Jane from Safer Places – a charity that offers refuge and homes to the victims of domestic violence. They spoke about heart-rending cases and statistics such as one in four women and one in six men will experience an abusive partner –and often their families or friends will know nothing about it. They also gave many examples of how much help and assistance they were able to provide and how they can empower these women or men and change the cycle of abuse. As a WI we will continue to support this charity for some time to come.

December is always a busy month and no less so for our WI – we always have a tree at the Christmas Tree Festival, dressed by Brenda Parish and Chris Samuel. The Federation Christmas Concert is at Chelmsford Cathedral on 6 December and many of us will be there. Our Christmas Party is on Thursday, 21 December and there are always lots of festive surprises including secret Sants, lovely food and fizz and the President's Challenge. The Competition this time is a Red Table Decoration, fitting in with our rainbow theme.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Committee and Members of Elsenham WI to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and healthy New Year. A huge THANK YOU too, to the team at Elsenham News for all your hard work and for producing such a fabulous magazine.

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



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

Elsenham WI – There's a lot going on!



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ELSENHAM VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

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



As I was preparing for a recent committee meeting, I was reminded that this month marks the tenth birthday of our website. The original idea was for a site where we could let members know about forthcoming meetings and post the occasional article of interest to villagers. Over the years it has grown somewhat with much more content included to make it a veritable encyclopaedia of Elsenham knowledge. Every week we see an average of ninety or so visitors which is a creditable amount for what is a small niche site. Every now and then we are contacted by professional researchers asking for assistance that we are happy to provide where we can.

There is a great deal of information on the site including census records, Births, Marriages and Deaths and a timeline of Elsenham events from the first century AD set in the context of National and International events. Under the People tab may be found many recordings of conversations with village residents, some sadly no longer with us. These are generally accompanied by written transcripts that allow one to follow the conversation more easily. Here you can also find lists of the Lords of the Manor and the Vicars of Elsenham going back to the time of the Norman invasion in 1066. Did you know that Elsenham nearly had a canal instead of the railway; or why the Daisy surgery is so called? A look under Miscellaneous will reveal the answers to these and several other questions you didn't know you had. There are many photographs on the site, some going back a hundred years arranged in several galleries covering the history of Elsenham and some special events. This is just a small sample of what is available, please take five minutes to have a look for yourself and see what you don't know about Elsenham.

Remember the address: www.elsenham-history.co.uk

Our next meeting is 13 March next year and will also include our AGM. At a less recent committee meeting we were discussing possible talks when we realised that we had never had a talk about Elsenham. Nothing ventured, our Chairman Ray Franklin delved into his photo collection and has put together a "Potted History of Elsenham" that takes us from the 12th century to the present day. Ray is a very entertaining speaker so this will be a good opportunity to come along and see what we do. Visitors are always welcome for a very modest two pounds but even better, membership costs just five pounds for a full year's meetings and this would be the perfect time to join. See you there?

Finally, as we approach Christmas, I would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

See you next year folks!

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Uttlesford Citizens Advice (UCA) urgently needs more volunteers to support people through the cost-of-living crisis. More and more people are coming to us for support to manage their energy costs and help with budgeting and debts. We also help people with housing issues, benefit entitlements, problems at work and family matters.

You don't need to have specific experience or qualifications to join us, (although you do need to be non-judgmental, able to talk to people and familiar with a computer). All our volunteers receive training and there is a paid member of staff that you can turn to for extra support whenever you feel you need it.

Our volunteers come from all walks of life and have many different reasons for volunteering. Volunteering with us gives you the opportunity to help other people and build skills and confidence as part of an inclusive, friendly team and the wider local community. Our volunteer roles are varied, challenging and rewarding; hours are flexible so fit well with family or other existing commitments.

Volunteering can be a route into employment, or an opportunity to try something different. Many of our volunteers go on to paid employment as volunteering with us provides skills and experience that are valued by many employers. A lot of our paid staff, including our Chief Executive, started out as volunteers.

So, if you would like to make a real difference to people's lives and have a positive impact on your community by giving information and advice that empowers people to tackle the root cause of their issues, please get in touch today! For more information and an application form, visit our website, [**www.uttlesfordca.org.uk**](http://www.uttlesfordca.org.uk) or call us on 01799 618840.

"I would definitely recommend others to volunteer with UCA. It was a very rewarding experience where I learnt so many different skills and gained a lot of confidence. It was great to work with such a welcoming group of people and to feel like the work I was doing actually made a difference and helped people."
Student volunteer

Our office is open Monday to Friday from 9.30 to 3.30. Email help@uttlesfordca.org.uk or call 01799 618840 for information and advice.

You can also visit our video access points for quick and easy access!

Great Dunmow Library - M/T/Th/F 9.30-15.30

Stansted Library - M/W/F 9.30 - 13.00

Thaxted Library - Tue 14.00-15.30 & Fri 9.00 - 13.00

Takeley Old School House - M/T/W/Th 9.00 - 13.00 & F 9.00-13.00

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Thought For The Month

by Rev. Louis Wilson



How do you plan to approach Christmas this year? Unless you live in Australia, there is something inescapably wintry about the whole thing. It's a dark, cold time of year. Proper Christmas happens in the bleak mid-winter and there's no room at the inn.

One way of handling the darkness is to accept it; to make our home in it. Just say, 'Bah! Humbug!' to Christmas. That's the **Scrooge** approach.

An alternative to Scrooge is the **Shopper**. The Shopper says: There is darkness. But don't let it get you down. Eat, drink, and shop because tomorrow you might die!

But here's the interesting thing: Every time the Bible describes heaven, the Bible says it's like a party with family, and great food, and friendship, and celebration. So Shoppers are onto something. We were made to celebrate. It's deep down in us....

But if you're a Shopper, you actually have the same view of the future as a Scrooge. There is nothing. When the big day is over, and the credit card bill hits the door mat, just like Scrooge, the darkness remains.

Another possibility is to pretend the darkness away. That's what the **Santa** does ... When he or she thinks about God, they're really thinking about Santa. It goes like this:

Santa is for children - God is for children.
Santa lives very far away - God is far away.

Most of the time, Santa is irrelevant, but if you really want something, you can ask him. And God is generally irrelevant, but sometimes you can ask him for things.

The Scrooge, the Shopper and the Santa. Maybe you're thinking: I'm a mix of all of them! Well, here's the good news – you can have the best of all of them, but you don't have to be any of them!

The final way to look at Christmas is through the **Stable**, and the Stable says: The darkness is real - but a Light has dawned. A real light, not a fairy tale Santa light. The Light is Jesus. The Bible says he is God's eternal Son. What will he do? He will rescue.

Christmas leads to the cross. Jesus takes on himself all our sins and all the judgement they deserve. Love bears the cost, and on the cross Jesus bears the cost for everything that separates us from God. He suffers the darkness which our sins deserve, and then he bursts through death to life on Easter Sunday. And he says to all of us: 'I know your darkness. Let me be your light.'

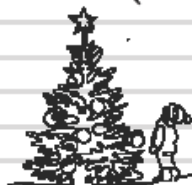
You see, with the Stable, you get the best of everything. You don't have to pretend the darkness away, but you can celebrate in hope. You don't need to have a fairy tale, make believe God. You can know the real God, and unlike Santa, he is infinitely worth knowing.

This December, please do join us for any one of our Christmas services and hear more about the God of the stable.

With best wishes this Christmas, *Louis*

Sunday 3 December

Christmas Tree Festival



Closing Service :

St. Mary's Elsenham 5pm



Sunday 10 December

Carols by Candlelight

St Mary's Elsenham 4 pm



Sunday 17 December

Family Carols

Elsenham Village Hall 10.15 am



Carols by Candlelight

St Peter's Ugley 4 pm

Christmas Eve



Joint Benefice Service,

St Mary's Elsenham 10.15 am

Family Carols

Henham School Hall, 3 pm

Village Carols

Elsenham Memorial Gardens, 5 pm

Christmas Carol Service

Henham School Hall, 7 pm



Christmas Day

Family Service, Elsenham Village Hall 10.15 am

Christmas Communion, St Peter's Ugley 10 am

Church Events in our Villages

December 2023



| | | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sat 2 - Sun 3 | 10:00 - 17:00 | Christmas Tree Festival | St Mary's, Elsenham |
| Sun 3 | 17:00 | Christmas Tree Festival Service | St Mary's, Elsenham |
| Sun 10 | 16:00 | Carols by Candlelight | St Mary's, Elsenham |
| Sun 17 | 10:15 | Family Carols | Elsenham Village Hall |
| Sun 17 | 16:00 | Carols by Candlelight | St Peter's, Ugley |
| Sun 24 | 10:15 | Joint Benefice Service | St Mary's, Elsenham |
| Sun 24 | 15:00 | Family Carols | HUSCH, Henham |
| Su 24 | 17:00 | Village Carols | Elsenham Memorial Garden |
| Sun 24 | 19:00 | Carols by Candlelight | HUSCH, Henham |
| Mon 25 | 10:00 | Christmas Communion | St Peter's Ugley |
| Mon 25 | 10:15 | Christmas Family Service | Elsenham Village Hall |
| Sun 31 | 10:15 | Joint Benefice Service | St Peter's, Ugley |





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 various festive performances.

If you make one new year's resolution on 1 January 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 time 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 and your first session is free!

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 2024 is a year to remember, for all the right reasons!



GARDEN HINT *By Sue Johnson*

NOT QUITE A GARDEN HINT

Give cacti and succulents as much light as possible in winter. Take care not to overwater at this time of year. Never let them sit in water. Check for pests between leaves and under the rim of the pot.



WHITE CHRISTMAS PUDDING

65gm Sultanas
65gm Raisins
3 Tablespoons Sherry or Brandy or White wine or orange juice
90gm Glacè Cherries (cut into quarters)
300gm Tin Mandarin Oranges (drained) (or similar)
125gm Butter
125gm Icing Sugar
65gm Ground Almonds
packet of 8 Trifle Sponges
150ml Double Cream

Soak the raisins & sultanas in sherry or brandy or white wine or orange juice until liquid is absorbed.
Mix in cherries and drained oranges.
Cream butter and sugar, add almonds.
Crumble trifle sponges very finely.
Mix all (except cream) thoroughly, so that oranges disintegrate.
Put in to a buttered 1.2 litre (2 pint) basin.
Refrigerate (or freeze - defrost before use)
Turn out onto a serving plate.
Coat with whipped double cream.
Decorate with holly or other Xmas decorations
ENJOY!!!!!!!

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COOKERY CORNER

By Sue Johnson ☎ 812704



This delicious and very luxurious potato and parsnip combination will go very well alongside your Christmas or Boxing Day roast. The recipe is a little bit like gratin dauphinois, but the vegetables are cut into long, chunky pieces, rather than in thin slices.

PARSNIP AND POTATO GRATIN (serves 6)

1¼ lb (750g) medium sized potatoes, peeled
1lb 2oz (500g) parsnips, peeled
1oz (25g) butter, plus extra for greasing
1 large garlic clove, crushed
½ pint (300ml) double cream
3oz (75g) parmesan, grated

Preheat oven to 200°C/180°C fan/gas 6. Butter a 12 x 9 in (30 x 23cm) ovenproof dish.

Slice each potato into 6-8 evenly sized wedges. Slice the parsnips into similarly sized shapes.

Blanch the potatoes in a large saucepan of boiling salted water for 3 minutes. Add the parsnips to the potatoes in the pan and continue to boil for a further 3 minutes. Drain well.

Return the veg to the pan and add the butter. Place over a medium heat and, once the butter has melted, add the garlic, and cook for 1 minute. Toss the potatoes and parsnips to coat in the butter. Season well with salt and black pepper, then tip into the prepared dish. Bake in the oven for about 20 minutes or until the vegetables are just starting to brown,



Pour the cream over the veg and sprinkle with the parmesan. Return to the oven for another 15 minutes, or until lightly golden and crisp on top.

Serve immediately.

CHEF'S RECOMMENATIONS:

The dish can be assembled ahead, then best cooked ready to serve with your roast. Not suitable for freezing but any leftovers will taste really good heated up the next day.

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SCOUTING NEWS

By Matt Morland (Akela)

✉ 1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com



With half-term passing in the blink of an eye, we're straight back into one of the busiest times of the year for our Scouts. In November and December, we will take part in our village's Remembrance Day Parades as well as taking part in the St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival and our yearly Christingle Service, all amongst our regular meeting schedules. Please do come and have a chat when you see us at these events.

Since our last article, our sections have been discussing their Code of Conduct and ideas for future activities, all key components of Scouting being "Youth Lead." Everyone has been working on their Activity, Staged and Challenge Awards, with Beavers making aeroplanes and parachutes, and a Halloween craft evening for their Air Activities, Builder and Creative awards. Cubs have been Pioneering, learning about space for their Astronomy badge and learning about Divali, as well as making Halloween lanterns. Scouts have held their annual Chippy Hike from Elsenham to Stansted, took part in a night hike in the rain, and spent an evening playing in a Warhammer tournament.



The activities we run for our young people are only possible due to the time and effort given by our volunteers. They are the ones that make our group such an exciting and enjoyable place for our young people. We are always in need of more volunteers to help spread the workload and provide a quality programme of varied activities for our young people. We are looking at a further leader shortfall in the new year, so please do consider the Scouts "4 Week Challenge":

Week 1: Come and see what we do

Week 2: Help out

Week 3: Get a little more involved

Week 4: Decide if volunteering with Scouts is for you

Please get in touch if you or someone you know may be interested. Leaders must be a minimum of 18 years old, and all training is provided, including First Aid, Safety, Safeguarding, GDPR, Administration, Practical Skills, Working with Adults, Skills of Leadership, Supporting Young People and Promoting Positive Behaviour. All of these are great CV enhancers and in many cases are transferrable skills for the workplace.





We are so excited about our **Christmas Farmers Market** taking place on **SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER** from 4-6pm in the **Village Hall**. We know the time is totally different to our usual slot, but it enables our lovely sellers to attend other markets in the morning and make the most of this busy time of year.

We have a bumper number of stalls coming, and there will be so much amazing produce; ranging from moreish home baked sourdough loaves to freshly made local apple juice, handmade seasonal chocolates to local honey, free range eggs, microgreens bursting with flavour, locally produced lamb, pork and game, preserves and oils, and your dogs will love you forever more if you get them some of the homemade dog treats on offer!

There will be Barista coffee (which can be enjoyed in the hall or to takeaway), a huge assortment of homemade cakes, dried flowers both in posies and arrangements, fruit curds and marmalades, freshly made savoury treats (the sausage rolls are to die for), environmentally friendly cleaning and body products, and John will be there with all things fishy.

Do make sure you come and enjoy our fabulous Market and help support these local, fledgling businesses, and of course all proceeds from the Market will be going to our local charities.

No charge for entry, you just need to enjoy and immerse yourself in all the gorgeous produce.

May your Christmas be merry and bright and thank you for supporting us.

Best wishes,
The Elsenham Farmers Market Team



P.S. NO Market at the end of December, and the next one will be on **JANUARY 27 2024** at the **new Market time of 12.30-2.30pm.**



NATURAL OUTLOOK - CHANGING YEARS

By Heather Salvidge ☎ 814153



In December 2021 we had icy cold winds, temperatures just above zero, murk, mist and fog, heavy rain, local floods, a damp Christmas and the Boxing Day Walk cancelled but got two warm days before New Year.

Then January gave frost and sun, cloudy days, warmer days, fog, Storm Malik and afterwards Storm Corrie. Allegedly, it was the sunniest January since 1919!! Last year in December we did have warm days but also 12 days of hoar frost, a little fog – and rain but Boxing Day fine. January 2023 gave cold nights, rain, warmer but windy spells, local floods, a frost or two, a splash of snow, fog, and a warm 31st January. This year, who knows?

Though the big walnut off Station Road was bare by Bonfire Night, many trees were still hanging on to lots of their leaves but ashes and our spindle were dropping many. Holly and hawthorn are ripening nicely so expect blackbirds and, if lucky, redwings who will finish them off before you have time to cut any for Christmas.

Ages ago when there was a frost so severe that it it froze over the lake at Hatfield Forest lots of us walked across it! Mad I know. The Forest team have now cracked down on such behaviour. The Forest winter hours have been in operation since November so do find out the opening days and hours. It's worth a visit as the deer and good numbers of wintering birds, jays, jackdaws, fieldfares and redwings, are about as well as the water birds,

Other places to visit are Amwell near Ware, Herts Wildlife Trust, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust reserve just over the Norfolk border where it would be best to check for water levels. If it's OK there's lots to be seen, also in the surrounding fields where the whooper swans graze in daytime. I'll try to fit in Blue House Farm, Essex Wildlife Trust, on the River Crouch near Fambridge where I should see large flocks of Brent Geese which are here for the winter. They are on the creek and the grass as well as on the river as are other interesting winter birds – so take your binoculars.

Around the village jays and blackbirds are usually more numerous as they are here from the Continent for warmer days and better food, but some others are less so. In our garden, as the countryside retreats we no longer have bullfinches, bramblings or siskins and very few pied wagtails but they are often on the playing field. I'm keeping my fingers crossed for the blackcaps. The sparrowhawks will usually visit. On 'The Croake', the lovely field opposite The Crown, the grass attracts starlings, crows, rooks and, if we are lucky, redwings, fieldfares, and nearer the slope down to Stansted Brook, possibly some Canada geese Or they could be on the golf course.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



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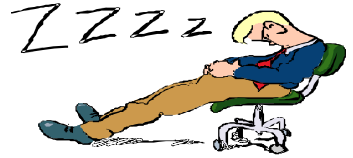
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FESTIVITIES CHANGE

Over time there have been many changes to what happens around Elsenham at Christmas. The well-attended, and greatly loved, "Gifts Galore", a veritable feast of Christmas gifts to see and purchase, has gone. However, the Christmas Tree Festival held within the Church has become a regular event at this festive time. It is being held again in 2023 and I for one will be there.

Social media has become a part of modern times. It has been embraced by Elsenham Parish Council who exhibit locally-taken festive photos on their website. The gathering around the tree, the singing of carols and the address by members of Elsenham Church continues. It helps to assist parishioners to remember the true meaning of Christmas. A beautiful and well organised event, it must not be missed.

In recent years our own village choir have been around at Christmas. We seem to have moved almost effortlessly from Gareth Malone on TV to our own group singing within the village.

The increasing number of homes has brought a great proliferation of Christmas decorations. Elsenham looks really beautiful at night. It is often said that Christmas is a time for children. That is a commonly held truism.

Do not be seduced by the myriad of consumables shown on TV, think of your friends, family and neighbours. There are many who will not be able to enjoy festivities at Christmas. Do not forget the others, those worse off than you.

I wish you all **A HAPPY CHRISTMAS**

Ray Franklin

REDUCTION IN TRANSPORT FUNDING

Ray Franklin, Transport Representative

Over 25% of bus services in England have been reduced in the past 10 years, and the pandemic has only made matters worse. Research has shown that 27% of bus services, when measured by mileage have disappeared in a decade. Bus cuts place greater financial pressure on local communities, more so in rural areas. We need to urge ministers to prioritise investment in busses. It is far too easy to reduce services just to reduce costs. If our buses are not used, they will be reduced, so

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By the time you read this our annual Christmas Tree Festival will be upon us. I really do hope that it is as much a success as, or more than, previous ones.

Many people have worked hard to bring this festival to you, and not just the "headline" names, but so many others who work "under the radar". I offer them my thanks.

Looking back, we had our "Art Exhibition and Sale" in the Church in October and wasn't it good?! I don't know why I should be surprised as I've seen it before, but the talent that we have in Elsenham and surroundings is amazing! We also ended up with some £720 going into the fabric fund. With work underway to rectify issues identified in the quinquennial inspection (a five-yearly inspection covering the state of the church building) these monies will be valuable in helping to maintain your Church.

As far as the future is concerned, we are looking to support a move by Gordon Barker's widow, Heather, to highlight Gordon's immense archive of photos etc of Elsenham. Gordon was not only an important and well-known local historian but also one of the founder members of the fabric fund. His recollections of the history of Elsenham will be well worth seeing, so watch this space for further details. We also have further plans for our programmes in 2024; again, watch this space.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas, and all the best for 2024. I look forward to seeing you at our Christmas Tree Festival and/or one of our Christmas services. Stay safe!



CHRISTMAS CHOIR REHEARSALS

The rehearsals for the Christmas Choir continue in December, leading up to our services of Carols by Candlelight.



DATES OF REHEARSALS IN DECEMBER:

Friday 1st December, 7.30 pm at
St Peter's, Ugley
Friday 8th December, 7.30 pm at
St Mary's, Elsenham
Friday 22nd December, 7.30 pm in
Henham (tbc)

DATES OF SERVICES:

Sunday 10th December, 4 pm at
St Mary's, Elsenham
Sunday 17th December, 4 pm at
St Peter's, Ugley
Sunday 24th December, 7 pm at the
School Hall in Henham

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Stansted U3A Singers presented their annual concert in St John's Church on Saturday 30 September. For the first time this was an afternoon performance. The concert theme this year was "I have a dream" and the choir sang a variety of old and new numbers, led by Musical Director Isobel Bradshaw.



In the interval the audience enjoyed delicious homemade cakes, together with wine and soft drinks. There was a surprise at the end of the concert with Elton John's uplifting "I'm still standing", each singer whipping on a pair of Elton's special specs. A retiring collection on behalf of Uttlesford Foodbank raised almost £130. More singers to join the choir would be warmly welcomed, just come along to rehearsal on any Tuesday afternoon.

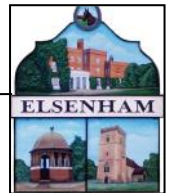
The U3A Christmas Tea will be held at St John's Hall, Chapel Hill on Thursday December 7. The annual Christmas Lunch will be held at Bury Lodge, Bury Lodge Lane, Stansted CM24 8QE on December 14.

Looking forward to next year the Speaker Programme for 2024 is on the website. The speaker at the first General Meeting on January 18 is Lindsay Whitehouse who will talk about "My life in Prison". Lindsay was the Governor of several prisons including Chelmsford Prison. He was also the first Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex and has written particularly for professionals involved in the Youth Justice system.



ELSENHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

By Sue Waite



SAVE THE DATE

Elsenham Community Association would like you to put Saturday, 17 February, 2024 in your diary. We will be holding a Race Evening to raise much needed funds to build outside toilets near the Memorial Hall. Races are due to start at 7.30pm so please arrive for 7pm.

We will send out more details nearer the time but to let you know that we will be serving hot dogs, there will be a bar and a raffle, hopefully, tables of 8, tickets will be £8 which includes the food.

We would very much like it if local businesses could sponsor a race for £25 – you get advertising on the night.

We sincerely hope that you will be able to join us for this fun night.



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Thomas Myddelton was born in 1550, the fourth son. He did indeed make his fortune in trade and became Lord Mayor of London in 1613. In 1615, Thomas bought the manor of Stansted Mountfitchet as his country seat and began the erection of a new Stansted Hall. He died in 1631 and was buried at St Mary's Church. His funeral was lavish; the family even paid for the mourners to be suitably dressed. There is a fine memorial inside the church with a life-size effigy under a decorated arch (right).



Hugh Myddelton was born in 1560, the sixth son. In London, he was apprenticed to a goldsmith and later became Royal Jeweller to King James I. Hugh became a self-taught engineer. He was largely responsible for construction of The New River (right), which ran for some 20 miles, taking fresh water from springs near Great Amwell into London. He helped fund the project and also secured financial help from the king.



The New River was opened in 1613, following the land contours so that gravity carried the water all the way to the Clerkenwell area of London. In 1620 a half mile extension was dug to supplement the supply by taking water from the nearby River Lea. After 400 years, the man-made New River still takes fresh water to the citizens of London; it is now operated by Thames Water.

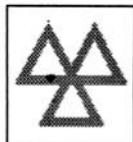


Hugh Myddelton died in London in 1631. A memorial stone (right) was erected on an island in the river at Great Amwell and various roads and properties along the route bear his name.

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

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ELSENHAM BOWLS AND SOCIAL CLUB

By Trevor Hackett



We are well into the winter season of bowling on Thursday afternoons at Turpins Indoor Bowls Club in Saffron Walden. Eight intrepid members play in a league run for outdoor clubs against other local clubs. The team has about fourteen members and only eight play each time, so it is not an onerous commitment. It is also a good opportunity to keep your hand in during the seven months break from outdoor bowling.

The Presentation Night on October 14th was enjoyed by all attending and a very good three course meal was provided by a local catering company. The Competition winners were presented with their "Swingers" to attach to the Competition Winners Badge won on Finals Day or in previous years.

On the social front our two Bingo nights in January are on the 6th and 20th and the 3rd & 17th of February, 7 pm for eyes down at 7.30 pm. Our live music artist on January 13th is Pete Webb as Elvis Presley. Tickets are now on sale in the bar and from Trevor Hackett ☎ 07445 437437 priced at just £6 including nibbles, 7.30 for 8 pm. Pete has performed as Elvis internationally for some years.

On January 27th we have a Quiz Night with your resident Quizmaster, Trevor Hackett. Tables of eight, £6 per person/brain includes a light supper, 7.30 for 8 pm. To book a table call Trevor ☎ 07445 437437.

In March we have an excellent guitarist and former Beatles Tribute act member Paul Sharp covering music from the 60s onwards.

We are also trying to fit in a Line Dancing evening in the Club. More details in the next magazine. I have already identified two more artists for January and March 2025 so hope to continue to provide live artists every other month.

The Crib leagues will shortly be on their Christmas break before resuming in January. The Darts players continue to enjoy themselves on Wednesday evenings in the club house with two boards in use. Short Mat Bowls is played on Thursday nights.

If you wish to join as a Social or Bowling member, either call in at the bar from 7 pm weekdays (except Mondays) or contact the Secretary, Therese Clear, on ☎ 816535.

I hope to see you in the club house during the winter.





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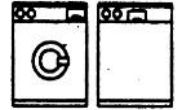
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ELSENHAM TENNIS CLUB

By Petra Studholme ☎814667



Our ETC quiz was a huge success. 10 tables battled it out and it was a win for everyone. It was great fun, thanks to Trevor our amazing quizmaster and the Bowls Club, in particular Barbara and Colin behind the bar. We raised vital funds for the upkeep and upgrade of our facilities.

Xmas Tree Festival (2-3 December): of course we are keen to participate in this year's Festival at the Church and looking forward to it. The tree will be decorated by our members, of course the theme will be tennis!

ETC Tennis Xmas Party (19 December, 7.30pm for members): lots of tennis, mulled wine, mince pies, nibbles and fun.

Essex Small Club League matches

A word from our Men's Captain, Jon Tann: "We had a tight winter 2022-23 season and managed to hold on to a win of men's Division 2, earning promotion to Division 1 for the winter 2023-24 season. It was great commitment and effort from all that played. Another tight summer 2023 season in division 1, but, down to last game, managed to hold on to winning the division 1 title. Thanks to all the team that played and to Steve for all the coaching and practice." And a quote from Mixed Captain Petra Studholme: "We had a great winter season, ended second. With such a young, inexperienced team, that's a huge experience and something to build on. Big thanks to Steve from Mixed too." Unfortunately we had to withdraw from the summer league as we were plagued by injuries.

Both teams have been entered into the forthcoming winter league and we are very much looking forward to it.

Coaching – individual and group sessions

We have individual and group coaching sessions. Cardio is run by our dedicated and experienced coach Steve Smith. Get in touch with him via email: stevesmith865@hotmail.com or call/text 07790 561 817.

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 availability, but please, if possible, give us 24hrs notice as we need to arrange to open the courts for you.

Half-price membership from 1 October 2023 to 31 March 2024

We have floodlights so club nights, lessons and members play available in the evenings in winter! We are offering half-price membership for all our subscriptions so full membership would be only £35, senior £21.25 and under 18s £8 for example. Other membership packages are also available for couples and the whole family. If you want to find out more about Elsenham Tennis Club, go to our website or find us on Facebook.

Tennis Club Weekly Activities

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

Tuesday evening– 7.30pm club night

Wednesday morning – 10am casual play

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

Thursday evening – 7.30pm team practice
Sessions

Friday morning – 10am casual play

Sunday afternoon – 2pm casual play

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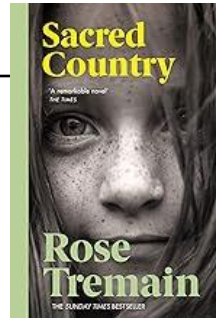
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'At the age of six, Mary Ward, the child of a poor farming family in Suffolk, has a revelation: 'I am not Mary. That is a mistake. I am not a girl. I'm a boy.' So begins a heroic struggle to change gender, while around her others also strive to find a place of safety and fulfilment in a savage and confusing world...' So says the blurb on the back of the book.

'Rose Tremain is one of the very finest British novelists'
Salman Rushdie

'A remarkable novel', *The Times*

This was the choice of the book group this month. *Sacred Country* was first published in 1992 but was reissued in 2017 with a foreword by Peter Tatchell, human rights campaigner known for his work with the LGBTQI+ community.

Set in rural East Anglia and London, ending in Nashville, Tennessee, USA and covers the years from 1952 to 1980.

Mary is very unhappy and not just because of body dysmorphia but family relationships. Mary's father, Sonny, a poor farmer, cannot really relate to his wife and children and bullies his wife, Estelle. She has a fragile hold on her mental health and is frequently admitted to a local sanatorium. Mary's brother, Timmy, becomes Sonny's focus, which arrests his development. Sonny is disgusted by Mary and sends her to live with Cord, a loving grandfather, who is happy to refer to her as Martin.

Although Mary is the main character and the novel follows their transition to become Martin, this book features other characters and their own struggles.

Irene and Edward (who find comfort in each other despite their circumstances) try to help Mary when others don't. Irene's daughter, Pearl, is a particular focus for Mary whom she considers to be 'precious'. There is Miss Macrae, the school teacher who supports and guides Mary through school years.

Mary leaves the bleakness of Suffolk to seek help in London, and is supported by many: Georgia, their lover, the doctor who guides her through her transition, and work colleagues. However, things don't work out in London. Her brother trains to work in the church and then marries which devastates Mary/Martin.

There is a separate story that features Walter, the son of the butcher, who dreams of becoming a country and western singer and goes through his own agonies to achieve this and finally makes his way to Nashville. When Martin turns his back on Suffolk he heads to Nashville where he is helped by Walter with accommodation and a job and eventually settles into a life that fulfils.

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: elsenhamnews@hotmail.co.uk

General Notes

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

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

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

The editors' decision is final.

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

Subscriptions

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

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

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Editorial Team:

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

Previous issues of Elsenham News are available on the ECA Website

UPCOMING EVENTS

Elsenham Flower Show Society AGM 12 January 8pm Memorial Hall

UDC/WI/Eagles: Recycling & other rubbish 8 February 7.30pm Memorial Hall

ECA Race Night 17 February 7 for 7.30pm Memorial Hall

Elsenham Village History Society AGM 13 March 2024 8pm Memorial Hall

VILLAGE CONTACTS

| | | |
|--|---|------------------------|
| Airport Roadside Parking | | 0800 731 2385 |
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| 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) | Louise Judd | foespta@hotmail.com |
| Guides elsenhamguides@gmail.com | Gemma Schafer | 07792 572423 |
| Henham & District Garden Society | Moyra Jackson | 647351 |
| History Society | Mike Rea evhs12@hotmail.co.uk | 813634 |
| Member of Parliament | Kemi Badenoch | 0207 219 5214 |
| Memorial Hall Bookings | Cheryl Rae | 817834 |
| Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator | Frances Lambert | 07771 728332 |
| | franceslambertnhw@btinternet.com | |
| Parish Clerk - Louise Johnson | louise.epc@gmail.com | 07456 791727 |
| Elsenham Parish Council Website | www.elsenham-pc.gov.uk | |
| Police | | 101 |
| Post Office | | 812175 |
| Rainbows | elsenhamrainbows@gmail.com | |
| Scouts | 1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com | |
| St Mary's Fabric Fund | Elizabeth Barker | 813543 |
| Tennis Club | Petra Studholme | 814667 |
| Tots & Toddlers | Dawn Temple | 07944 841358 |
| Utlesford District Councillors | Petrina Lees | 816675 |
| (for Elsenham & Henham) | Bianca Donald | 07941 880297 |
| Village Hall Bookings | elsenhamvillagehall@gmail.com | |
| Womens Institute Secretary | Gill Hathaway | 813385 |
| WI | Facebook | |
| 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.

If you feel that there are more Stansted night flights than ever, you'd be right. Stansted Airport Watch (SAW) has finally been able to establish what's been happening.

Stansted is allowed a maximum of 13,700 flights a year during the six and a half hour core night period from 11.30pm to 6.00am. That, incidentally, is more than twice the number allowed at Heathrow. The annual limit of 13,700 night flights is divided into a summer limit of 8,100 and a winter limit of 5,600. The summer period coincides with British Summer Time, and normally lasts for 31 weeks, from the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October.

The numbers for this summer are not yet available but SAW has been able to establish that Stansted handled 10,509 night flights compared to the statutory limit of 8,100. However, Stansted insist that they have not broken the rules. This is all made possible by a clever three-card trick. Here's how it works.

Step 1 – The night flights legislation (which applies to all) allows up to 10% of the previous winter's allowance (if not fully used) to be carried forward to the following summer. That added 560 flights to Stansted's allowance, increasing it to 8,660 night flights.

Step 2 – The legislation also allows an airport to overshoot by up to 10% and carry this forward by reducing the allowance for the next winter period. That added another 810 flights, increasing it to 9,470.

Step 3 – Finally, the Secretary of State allows Stansted management to use their own discretion to disregard certain night flights. These are known as dispensations and they are mostly granted when an aircraft which was scheduled to arrive or depart before 11.30pm, actually arrives or departs after 11.30pm, thereby becoming a night flight. In the 2022 summer period, Stansted management granted a total of 1,201 dispensations.

Hey Presto! The combined effect of these enabled Stansted to handle over 10,500 night flights last summer without breaching the statutory limit. SAW obtained this information by submitting a series of requests to the Department for Transport under the Freedom of Information Act, by pressing Stansted Airport management to explain the disparity in the number, and by writing directly to the Secretary of State.

SAW has also obtained comparative information for Heathrow and Gatwick. Compared to the 1,201 dispensations granted at Stansted, Gatwick granted 576 dispensations and Heathrow granted just 415. This is despite the fact that Stansted is by far the smallest of London's three main airports. The vast majority of dispensations granted by Stansted management were categorised as being due to bad weather (mainly "thunderstorms") and Air Traffic Control problems. However, this raises the question, why Stansted should be so much more prone to thunderstorms and Air Traffic Control problems compared to the others?

CHURCH EVENTS IN OUR VILLAGES JANUARY 2024

Church Services

Sunday 7th January

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

Sunday 14th January

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

Sunday 21st January

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

Sunday 28th January

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

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

* **HUSCH:** Henham & Ugley School Hall

Other Regular Events

SUNDAYS:

**Elsenham & Henham Sunday Club/
Explorers (Reception-Y5)
(Y1-Y6) Starts at EVH then on to
Old Frank's, Elsenham, 10.15am**
Sundays: 14th, 21st & 28th

Pathfinders (Y6-Y9)
**HUSCH*, Henham 6.00pm - leave
from service to meet in the Church
Hall, Henham. Sundays: 7th, 14th, 21st
& 28th**

Crammin' (Y10-Y13)
**HUSCH*, Henham 6.00pm followed
by 7.00pm at OSCA, Henham**
Sundays: 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th

MID-WEEK AND SATURDAY:

Start the Week with Prayer
Church Hall, Henham 9.30am
Mondays: 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th

Seekers After School Bible Club
(Y3-Y4) Old Frank's 3.20pm
Mondays: 15th, 22nd & 29th

Christian Play (Y1-Y2)
Rowan House, Elsenham 3.15pm
Tuesdays: 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th

Little Fishes Pre-School Group
Church Hall, Henham 10.30am
Thursday: 11th, 18th & 25th

Little Fishes Pre-School Group
Elsenham Memorial Hall 10.00am
Fridays: 12th, 19th & 26th

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

Afternoon Tea
OSCA, Henham 2.00pm
Saturday: 20th



LOOKING FOR A CHRISTMAS GIFT? CHRISTMAS VOUCHERS ARE AVAILABLE!

YOU CHOOSE THE
AMOUNT & ADD A SHORT
PERSONALISED MESSAGE

THEY CAN BE USED TO
PLAY GOLF, FOOTGOLF,
ADVENTURE GOLF, OR ON
THE DRIVING RANGE & ARE
VALID FOR A YEAR

EMAIL:

accounts@golfworldstansted.co.uk

FOR MORE DETAILS



**Golf
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