

# Elsenham News

St. Mary's Elsenham Fabric Fund present :

## Christmas Tree Festival



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10.30 - 5.00

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Carols by Lanternlight see page 7

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December 2024  
75p where sold

## Elsenham Village Regular Monthly or Quarterly Activities

Parish Council 1st **Monday** of month 7.45pm (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 Soc. 1st **Tuesday** of month 2 for 2.30pm Memorial Hall  
 Community Choir 1st & 3rd **Tuesday** of 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  
 Gong Baths 4th **Thursday** of month 7.30pm Memorial Hall  
 Church Lunch Club 2nd & 4th **Friday** of month 12.30pm Memorial Hall  
 Elsenham Farmers' Market last **Saturday** of month 12.30 - 2.30pm Village Hall

## December 2024 diary

Sun	1	Christmas Wreath Workshop	Memorial Hall 2-5pm
Mon	2	Parish Council Meeting	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Tues	3 & 17	Elsenham Community Choir	Village Hall 7pm
Sat	7 & Sun 8	Christmas Tree Festival	St Mary's Church 10.30-5pm
Sat	7 & 21	Bingo	Bowls & Social Club 7 for 7.30pm
Mon	9	District Councillors' Surgery	Orwell House Station Road 6.30pm
Mon	9	Natter Night	The Crown 7.30
Tues	10	Life Drawing	Village Hall 7.30pm
Fri	13	Church Lunch Club	Memorial Hall 12.30pm
Sun	15	Carols by Lanternlight	St Mary's Elsenham 7pm
Thurs	19	Elsenham WI	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Tues	24	Village Carols	Memorial Garden 5pm

*For details of January's diary, please see page 44*



**Mobile Library**  
**Every third Thursday stopping at Glebe End**  
**11.50 am to 12.20 pm Next visit: December 5**

## Elsenham Village Regular Weekly Activities

Day	Time	Activity	Location
Monday	9.30-10.30am	Zumba	Memorial Hall
	10.30-11.30am	Health walk	Start at De Mandeville Green
	4-4.30pm	Rascals (3-4yrs)	Memorial Hall (term time)
	4.30-5.30pm	Rascals (5-7yrs)	Memorial Hall (term time)
	5.30-7pm	Rascals (8-12yrs)	Memorial Hall (term time)
	7-7.45pm	Pilates	Elsenham Village Hall
	7.30-8.30pm	Shape to the beat	Memorial Hall (not 1st Monday)
Tuesday	9.30-10.15am	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
	8pm	Fitness Yoga/Pilates	Memorial Hall
Wednesday	9.45-11.30am	Tots & Toddlers	Memorial Hall (term-time)
	5.30-7.00pm	Slimming World	Memorial Hall
	7-9pm	Scouts	Ugley Village Hall (term-time)
	7.30pm	Aerobics	Elsenham Village Hall
Thursday	6-7.15pm	Cubs (Bear Pack)	Ugley Village Hall (term-time)
	6.45-7.45pm	Jump Fit	Elsenham Village Hall
Friday	10-11am	Little Fishes	Memorial Hall (term-time)
Saturday	8.15am-1pm	Tarte au Citroen	Playing Field
	9-11am	Dance Scene	Memorial Hall
	9am-12pm	Youth boys & girls 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)



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## Christmas Trees and Wreaths

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**WILD BIRD FOOD**  
**SUNDRIES**

# THE NEWS REPORT

*From The Editors*



Christmas is now upon us and it is time to celebrate and maybe even have a little time to rest and be with family and friends.

At Elsenham News we celebrate one of our regular contributors who has regaled us with the wonders of the natural world for 21 years and, in this issue, provides her last regular article. Thank you Heather Salvidge for your 400 plus articles and your committed support of this publication, we appreciate it very much.

We value and celebrate all our regular contributors and are delighted that we have more like Heather, for they provide the resources to help us continue. Indeed, we hope Heather will find the time now and then to put pen to paper and help keep us all informed.

Thank you Heather, from all the team at Elsenham News.

There are many things in this issue for our readers to celebrate this December as well. Everything from Father Christmas visiting Daisy May's to the annual Church Christmas Tree Festival. There is a lot to enjoy and we hope the information herein will inspire you to go out and visit many of the festivities on offer.

As usual, there will not be an issue produced for January but we will return in February. Until then, may we wish all our readers, contributors and advertisers a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

## **The Elsenham News Editorial Team**

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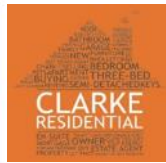
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# ELSENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

By Louise Johnson, Clerk.

✉ louise.epc@gmail.com

☎ 07456 791727



Kate Robson gave a presentation on the Citizens Advice.

The Citizens Advice provide free, confidential advice on debt, benefits, housing, community care, immigration (level 1), relationships, employment law, warm home support. Employees are qualified to place someone in a debt 'breathing space', defend eviction orders, deliver debt solutions, support disability benefit appeals and many other issues.

Residents can access support in several ways, telephone advice, email, home visits. There is a one-touch video access point in Takeley Old School House and face to face outreach appointments in Takeley can be arranged if required.

The work on the wildflower area on De Mandeville Green began on November 15. Flowerbeds will be established with paths in between. As it will take time for the wildflowers to establish, daffodil bulbs will be planted to give some colour. The revised grass cutting contract, incorporating the rewilding, will be voted on by Full Council on December 2. This will of course be a public meeting and residents may have their say.

The Parish Council are to arrange for three dead trees on the southern boundary of the cemetery, to be felled.

Cars continue to park on the Gilbey Cottages verge. The verge is owned by Essex County Council and mowed by the Parish Council. In conjunction with North-east Parking Partnership the council could stop cars parking on the verge. However, the residents would have to find somewhere else to park, which could be difficult.

The timetable for the 7 & 7A buses is not changing. The single bus fare cap was raised to £3.00 in the budget.

*The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday December 2, starting at 7.45pm in the Memorial Hall.*

## Carols by Lanternlight

Sunday December 15 at 7pm  
St Mary's Church, Elsenham

Mulled wine and mince pies at the end of the service. All are welcome and it is suitable for all age groups.





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# DEVELOPMENT DEVELOPMENTS

By *Graham Mott* ☎ 812516 ✉ [motts@grahammott.plus.com](mailto:motts@grahammott.plus.com)



Here's a bit of an end-of-year round-up, starting with Dandara's scheme in two parts. The new access off Stansted Road is now named Crown Drive, presumably because it's as far from the Crown pub as you can get without leaving the village. The 48 homes are completed and all, or nearly all, are occupied, with a not very generous play area towards the northern end, positioned presumably so that the noise of children playing will drown out the motorway. If you keep walking further north, you now have access to the footpath from Isabel Drive to the footbridge over the motorway. Dandara have made a contribution towards the improvement of this footpath, but Essex CC, dilatory as ever, have made no moves towards constructing it. The other Dandara site, Woodland Drive off Isabel Close, 51 homes, is expected to be completed in January, with about half occupied and just one unsold at the time of writing.

Bovis Homes now have a sales office in Golden Miller Avenue, off Hall Road, with first occupation anticipated during December or January, and completion of all 130 by the end of 2026 at the latest.

Bloor Homes continue with mass building at what they call 'Elsenham Park' - only a developer would take a large tract of open undeveloped land, cover it with houses, and call it a park, which is otherwise a name for a large tract of open undeveloped land. Somewhere approaching 100 of the 350 comprising 'Bloor 1' are occupied; then there will be the 200 of 'Bloor 2'; then, in all probability, the 110 of 'Bloor 3', offered to Bloor within Uttlesford District Council's Local Plan 'Regulation 19' consultation by way of 'quid pro quo' for making land available for educational purposes.

As reported last month, the application for 40 with access off Rush Lane was withdrawn, it is believed because of the existence of a 'ransom strip' along the boundary, which the ransom holders are not prepared to let go. An alternative detailed application with access off Robin Hood Road is possible, but the site has been flogged on and it is likely that the new owners will start again.

Gladman are attempting to satisfy UDC that they can 'mitigate' the noise from the M11 sufficiently to build 240 homes to the north of Bedwell Road, and a much smaller outfit is engaged in a similar endeavour with the Planning Inspectorate regarding 50 homes to the south. One of the many ways in which the planning system is biased in favour of developers is that they can take as long as they like, and come back with amended proposals if they are knocked back.

That should be it, but no! Countryside have outline approval for 130 in the field opposite the Crown, and still have eighteen months or so to make a detailed application.

A happy and peaceful festive season to all readers, with a respite from construction activity for a few days at least. It will resume in 2025.

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# ELSENHAM VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

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

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My first duty this month is to thank Alan Davidson, a village resident who has been following the saga of the windmills! He spent some time looking through all four volumes of Essex Windmills and extracting any and all information pertinent to Elsenham before giving us the fruits of his research. This has revealed a lot of new information which we will collate and publish in due course. Thanks again Alan, your help is much appreciated.

As you read this, Christmas will be upon us once more and thoughts will be turning to spending time with friends and family. Give a thought then to a Christmas gathering in 1889. Mr Walter Gilbey (he was not then yet a Sir having to wait until 1893 for that honour) of Elsenham Hall had a few “friends” over for the day, among his guests were HRH The Prince of Wales later to become King Edward VII, the Hereditary Prince of Hohenlohe and Lord Randolph Churchill, father of Sir Winston Churchill. On arrival at The Paddocks, Sir Walter’s thoroughbred shire and hackney horses were paraded together with Friday, at that time the smallest pony in England. The party went to Elsenham Hall for lunch after which, expressing himself highly pleased with the visit, the Prince of Wales drove back to Easton Lodge.

Staying with Elsenham Hall, we have learned that at Christmas 1915 and for probably a few years more, the hall was in use as the 60<sup>th</sup> (London) Casualty Clearing Station (CCS) manned by the Royal Army Medical Corps (Territorial Force), R.A.M.C.T. The Territorial Force formed, in 1908, became the more familiar Territorial Army in October 1921. A perusal of minutes from the Village Hall Management Committee showed that it was agreed that the hall should be opened on a Sunday for military personnel stationed in the village to use for the playing of the usual games, but not, by order of the Rev. Sant, card games! On Wednesday December 8 1915, musicians from the CCS gave a concert at the Village Hall. Entry was by programme, price one (old) penny.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 12 March at 8pm in the Memorial Hall and will include our AGM. The speaker for the evening will be our Chairman Ray Franklin who, in his own inimitable style, will tell the story of St Mary’s Church.

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings for a very modest two pounds but even better, membership costs just five pounds for a full year’s meetings. A bargain!

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.



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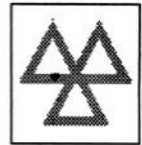
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## Daisy May's Farm

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We are so looking forward to Christmas at Daisy May's Farm 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 a hot chocolate and 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.

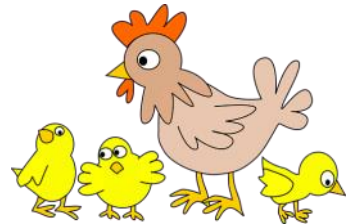
These events will be on **throughout December**, but make sure you keep an eye out on our Facebook page for our Christmas opening times. **Booking is essential on [www.daisymaysfarm.org](http://www.daisymaysfarm.org)** as you don't want to miss out on all the festive fun.



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 8 [www.daisymaysfarm.org](http://www.daisymaysfarm.org) to find out more. Thank you so much.

# Mat Duxbury

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# ELSENHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

By Moyra Jackson ☎ 647351



It is safe to say that winter is well and truly here. The leaves are finally gone from the trees and our gardens rest now until spring – although I have already seen evidence of bulbs breaking ground.

Yesterday I attended the Act of Remembrance Service in our village, held at the Memorial Garden. It was very encouraging to see children from local youth organisations and their leaders, all looking so smart and taking part in the service. The grass outside the Garden was full of Elsenham folks covering many generations, all there to remember those who gave their lives in conflicts since 1914. The WI is very proud to stand with other local organisations to lay a wreath at the Memorial.

The Memorial Hall was full to bursting after the Service as all ages joined together to enjoy the refreshments provided by Elsenham WI. We have done this since 2014 and it is a pleasure to give something to the community we live in and to honour those who served this country and made the ultimate sacrifice.



The WI was formed in 1915 in England and Wales to support women at a time when not only would they have been worrying about husbands, fathers, brothers and friends who were involved in a world war, but were also having to take on the jobs those men would normally have done. As a WI member it comes as no surprise that the WI continues to go from strength to strength when we not only offer support but friendship, education and are the largest women's organisation in the UK who campaign on many current issues. And yes – we do make exceedingly good cakes!

Our last meeting of the year is our Christmas Party on December 19th and the competition is something beginning with X (that will prove challenging!!). For our first meeting of 2025 we hope to have the Elsenham History Society come along to talk to us.

On behalf of all the members of Elsenham WI I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Coming along to Elsenham WI is a really good way to make friends especially if you are new to Elsenham. We have a very proud history based on the 'Jam and Jerusalem' traditions of our formation in 1921 and are delighted that we have continued to grow into the WI we are today. We are always happy to dispel any of the 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, 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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### IMPORTANT and WONDERFUL RECYCLING NEWS

We thought it might not be widely known that in Uttlesford, you can put “Don’t recycle at home” items into your kerbside recycling.

You don’t need to bag it all up and take it to a supermarket!

All plastics which have the following labels CAN be put in your Uttlesford Green-Lidded Recycling bin:



No need for any of the above, just put it into your green-lidded bin!  
This includes:

- Plastic carrier bags
- Plastic cereal bags, eg porridge oats (not inners from boxed cereals), plastic wrappers
- Plastic wrappers from toilet roll and kitchen towel packs
- Plastic magazine and newspaper wrap (type used for home delivery only)
- Plastic bread bags (shake out)
- Plastic wrappers and ring joiners from multipacks of cans and plastic bottles
- Plastic freezer bags
- Thin bags used for fruit and vegetables at supermarkets

We have updated our map of recycling points in Elsenham. You can check this out on our Facebook page: [Elsenham Action Group for Local Environmental Sustainability – Eagles](#)

There are now printer cartridge recycling boxes at the station and the post office. When full, these boxes are returned to recycle4charity who give a donation to Elsenham Community Association.

Finally, if you recycle toys to charity shops before Christmas this could make a positive difference to families struggling with the cost-of-living crisis.

We wish everyone a Happy Christmas and, of course, a very happy 2025.

We meet on the 4th Monday of each month at the Crown at 7.30pm and all are welcome, even if you’re just curious about what we do.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 27 January.

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# DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

By Cllr Lees and Cllr Donald

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

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

☎ 07836 346717

☎ 07713 074656



We were honoured to represent the District Council at the Remembrance services within our wards. It was heartening to see young and old attending the village events and remembering the fallen.

## **UDC PLANNING COMMITTEE DECISIONS AND “DESIGNATION”**

There still appears to be a misunderstanding of what ‘Designation’ means. It is NOT special measures, (meaning that all planning powers are removed). It does NOT mean that UDC has no control regarding planning. It means that developers can CHOOSE whether to apply for planning permission via UDC or the Planning Inspectorate. At the time of writing over 75% of applications come to UDC. These reports contain statistics which are provided (by all planning authorities) to the **Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (“MHCLG”)** and published by them quarterly. The reports on these matters which will be presented to the November UDC Planning Committee are available online.

There are four criteria under which a Local Planning Authority may be “designated” which relate to its performance under standards termed by MHCLG – Quality Major; Quality Speed; Quality Non-Major and Speed Non-Major.

The only one where UDC has not been able to demonstrate compliance historically is where the Planning Inspectorate (“PINS”) on appeal has overturned decisions by the Planning Committee and/or Officers under their delegated powers, and the resulting percentage overturn ratio has exceeded 10%, (this was reduced from 20% in 2017) calculated on a rolling average basis. Exceeding this ratio can lead to designation by MHCLG (as has occurred in the instance of Uttlesford and recently, for some other local planning authorities).

For some time, we are pleased to say, the applicable majors overturn ratio has been substantially lower than 10% and presently stands at 4.41% for appeal decisions made to April 2024.

## **CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE**

Corporate Peer Challenges are run by the Local Government Association upon request and provide a key opportunity for District Councils to bring in independent expert colleagues to perform a “health check” on how well they are performing across a range of headings including governance, partnership, financial management, leadership and so on.

The Cabinet has decided to undertake such a challenge, and it will take place in December. The Corporate Peer Challenge team will be made up of leading council elected members and officers from other authorities elsewhere in the country and will draw its conclusions after both reviewing core written materials submitted by

***Continued overleaf***

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***Continued from pg 19***

UDC but also by speaking directly with a representative sample of UDC front line staff across the different functions and seniorities and, of course, with various elected councillors.

We consider that this health check will be helpful with a view to building positively on the conclusions to be drawn by our Peers in their report, which will be published in full.

### **UDC CABINET AND COUNCIL BUSINESS**

Members and residents might wonder from time to time what is the UDC Cabinet and what does it do, is it a talking shop or is it more than this? It is most certainly more than a talking shop. Nor is it a “rubber stamping bureau” approving unquestioningly actions prepared or to be taken by the UDC Officers, of whom the most senior is, of course, the Chief Executive, Mr Peter Holt. So, it might be helpful to have a snapshot of the work the Council is undertaking at a senior administrative level this last month.

UDC is managed on corporate lines which involve a Corporate Management Team (“CMT”) made up of employed officers, namely the Chief Executive, three Strategic Directors and six Directors. They are named together with their ascribed functions and responsibilities on our website.

Corporate Management Team - Uttlesford District Council. The CMT meet among themselves in a collegiate fashion so that one area of activity is known in general terms to others so as better to enable the UDC Corporate Plan [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/corporate-plan](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/corporate-plan) to be coordinated and discharged. The Cabinet is made up of six elected Members (Petrina being one) who meet fortnightly by way of an informal Cabinet briefing together with necessary officers in anticipation of actions to be considered at the forthcoming programme of Cabinet Meetings. The Cabinet members and their responsibilities are described here: [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/cabinet-portfolio-holders](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/cabinet-portfolio-holders) All Cabinet Meetings are of course held in public and their proceedings broadcast live and recorded for viewing through the Meeting Agenda link.

### **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' AND CONSTITUENTS' SURGERY**

We will be holding our usual monthly surgeries on Monday December 9 at Orwell House, Station Rd, Elsenham, at 18.30, and Thursday January 9 at “Osca”, Henham, at 18.30. We look forward to meeting residents without prior appointment. We are always pleased to meet up elsewhere, by appointment as required. A quick reminder, we have monies from our Members’ Initiative Grant as appropriate available to community groups. We wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year.

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## ELSENHAM FLOWER SHOW SOCIETY

✉ suewaite2003@yahoo.co.uk or

✉ lynda.jolly@btinternet.com

---



### **A G M**

**17 JANUARY 2025**

**MEMORIAL HALL AT 7.30PM**

**Followed by**

**CHEESE AND WINE**

The EFSS committee would like to invite you to their AGM on Friday 17th January 2025 and stay and have some Cheese and Wine after the meeting. The Committee members would like to hear your views of the society and any suggestions you may have on the events we hold during the summer. You would be very welcome to join the society and get involved.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all from the  
EFSS Committee. Allan, Sue, Lynda, Brian and Lynda

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## **DE MANDEVILLE WILDFLOWER AREA UPDATE**

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By now you may have seen the new developments to the wildflower area on De Mandeville Green. In November, Tom Belton marked out the new wildflower beds and pathways, rotavated the beds to get rid of the grass and to deeply embed the wildflower seeds for future years. Many wildflowers require a cold period to initiate germination, so by sowing at this time of year we should be ahead of the game come the spring.

We are now in the most difficult and unsightly time, waiting for the good stuff to happen! As we all know good things come to those that wait, and the first year of a new wildflower meadow is always the least satisfying. The name of the game for the first year is establishing strong root systems. Plants, like humans are not great multi-taskers, so in the choice of roots or flowers, we are taking the sensible choice and choosing roots. This means that for the first year of our meadows there will not be a lot to see as we will need to keep the area regularly cut, to force the wildflowers to concentrate on their root systems. This is a similar process of pinching out new shoots on seedlings to encourage sturdier growth. We are conscious that the village needs something pretty to look at, so the Flowerbed Committee is going to plant spring bulbs into the beds .

We are also planning on adding to the wildflower seeds year on year, so that as the meadow becomes more established, we will be rewarded for our patience by ever more varieties and numbers of wildflowers. We love our village, love this project and cannot wait to see a carpet of colour in the village, buzzing with bees and fluttering with butterflies.



**EVERY TUESDAY IN ELSENHAM**

**WHAT IS THE TOUCHPOINT COMMUNITY FOOD SHARE?**

Our volunteers collect food donated by local supermarkets and retailers that would otherwise go to waste, and distribute it free to the community

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](mailto:info@thetouchpoint.org)

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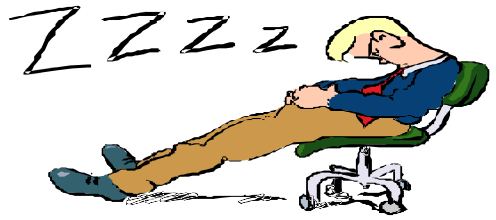
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## The Countdown

**The week before:** Cook braised red cabbage fully and cool. It will keep covered in a casserole dish in the fridge, for up to 3 days.

**The day before:** Make your cranberry sauce, cool, and keep in the fridge. Make the stuffing and garlic butter now. Chill in a bowl or get ahead and stuff and cover the turkey with it, cover with foil then return the bird to the fridge. Prepare your stuffing mixture (such as a classic sage and onion stuffing or vegan chestnut stuffing) and shape into balls or press into your chosen dish ready to go in the oven. Refrigerate. Wrap your sausages in bacon for the pigs in blankets, refrigerate in a baking dish.

**6 to 7 hours ahead:** Bring turkey to room temperature (remove the giblets).

**4.5 hours ahead:** Blanch Brussels sprouts, immerse in chilled water. Peel the potatoes and immerse in water to prevent browning.

**3.5 hours ahead:** preheat oven. Stuff and prepare the turkey then put in the hot oven. Baste and lay the bacon rashers over the turkey breasts after first 15 minutes. Reduce oven temperature then baste every 30 minutes. Peel parsnips and carrots 2-3 hours ahead, Keep immersed in chilled water until you are ready to cook.

**1.5 hours ahead:** Take the cranberry sauce from the fridge and spoon into a saucepan. Take the braised red cabbage out of the fridge. Boil the milk and flavour the bread sauce and leave to infuse. Finish preparing your peeled potatoes ready for roasting. For classic roast potatoes, this means parboiling, adding herbs and seasonings and getting the fat hot in the oven. Put the potatoes into the oven, followed by your prepared stuffing, to roast. Check the turkey is fully cooked through – insert a skewer into the thickest part of the leg and check that the juices are running clear, rather than pink. When ready, remove from oven and leave in a warm place to rest. Use trimmings and roasting juices to make gravy. Leave in pan until serving.

Ray  
Franklin

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## Thought For The Month by *Louis Wilson*

I find it alarming that for much of my life, I knew the Christmas story, sang the songs, opened the presents, ate the dinners – but never really understood the point.

But look at the words of almost any well known Christmas carol, and it's inescapably clear that Christmas is about a King. Take, for example, the Sussex Carol:

*On Christmas night all Christians sing  
To hear the news the angels bring,  
News of great joy, news of great mirth,  
News of our merciful King's birth.*

2000 years ago the eternal, all powerful and all knowing God, somehow, stepped out of eternity and into history as a human being. At his birth, he was given several names. One of them was Immanuel which means God with us. That is, the baby born in Bethlehem, was fully God and fully man which makes him an altogether new and different King.

But secondly this Immanuel was a rescuing King. In advance of his birth, his parents were instructed to give him the name Jesus, "because he will save his people from their sins." Jesus means God saves.

Sadly, we feel the effects of this thing sin every day: anger, violence, frustration, betrayal, injustice. We hear it on the news, we experience it in our homes, we sense it even in our own hearts. We can ignore some of it, overlook it, pretend it away, but we know that the world - and we along with it - doesn't work the way it's meant to. However optimistic we are,

we live trapped in the thorny prison of a fallen world.

But then a rescue! And Jesus is the King who can do it. That is what makes Christmas news of great joy and great mirth. Jesus grows up to die on a Roman cross. And on that cross, he carries your sin and mine, and begins to reverse its horrible effects and open up the way to God.

What's the point of Christmas? It's about a King. A new King, a rescuing King, and lastly a forever King.

For many of us, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was an ever-present reality. But suddenly she was gone. And now her son is King. I've never met him. I don't expect I ever will. But all of us can meet King Jesus, and meeting Him can make a real difference today. You see, the cross was not the end. Death could not hold him and he reigns now and forever: of the increase of his government there will be no end.

The point about a king is that he requires our allegiance. Just before he died in 1891, the famous preacher Charles Spurgeon commended King Jesus with these words: "If you wear the livery of Christ, you will find him so meek and lowly of heart that you will find rest for your souls. He is the most magnanimous of captains and the choicest of princes."

This December, please do join us for any one of our Christmas services where I pray you meet the King.

With best wishes,

*Louis*

# CHURCH EVENTS IN OUR VILLAGES DECEMBER 2024

## Church Services

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December

10:15 All Together All Age Service,  
Elsenham Village Hall (Advent)

18:00 Sunday@6, HUSCH, Henham

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December

08:45 Prayer Book Holy Communion,  
Elsenham Church

10:00 Morning Service, Ugley Church

10:15 Morning Service,  
Elsenham Village Hall

17:00 Christmas Tree Festival Closing  
Service

18:00 Sunday@6, HUSCH, Henham

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December

08:45 Prayer Book Morning Prayer,  
Elsenham Church

10:00 Prayer Book Holy Communion,  
Ugley Church

10:15 Morning Service,  
Elsenham Village Hall

19:00 Carols by Candlelight, Elsenham

### Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December

18:00 Carols around the Tree,  
OSCA, Henham

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

10:15 Family Carols,  
Elsenham Village Hall

16:00 Carols by Candlelight, Ugley  
**Christmas Eve**

15:00 Family Carols, HUSCH, Henham

17:00 Village Carols, Elsenham  
Memorial Gardens

### Christmas Day

10:00 Christmas Holy Communion,  
Ugley Church

10:15 Family Service,  
Elsenham Church

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December

10:15 Joint Benefice Service,  
Ugley Church

## Events

Sat 7 Dec - Sun 8 Dec 10:30-17:00

**Christmas Tree Festival**, Elsenham  
Church

## 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: 8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>

**Pathfinders (Y6-Y9)**

**HUSCH\*, Henham 6.00pm - leave  
from Sunday@6 to meet in the  
Church Hall, Henham.**

Sundays: 1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>

**Crammin' (Y10-Y13)**

**HUSCH\*, Henham 6.00pm followed  
by 7.00pm at OSCA, Henham**  
Sundays: 1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>

### MID-WEEK AND SATURDAY:

**Start the Week with Prayer**

**Old Frank's, Elsenham 9.30am**  
Mondays: 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>

**Seekers After School Bible Club**

**(Y3-Y4) Old Frank's 3.20pm**  
Mondays: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>

**Christian Play (Y1-Y2)**

**Rowan House, Elsenham 3.15pm**  
Tuesdays: 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>

**Little Fishes Pre-School Group**

**Church Hall, Henham 10.30am**  
Thursday: 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>

**Little Fishes Pre-School Group**

**Elsenham Memorial Hall 10.00am**  
Fridays: 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>

**Church Lunch Club**

**Elsenham Memorial Hall 12.30pm**  
Fridays: (2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month): 13<sup>th</sup>

\* Henham & Ugley School Hall

For information on all these events,  
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So, now is a great time to think about ways to save energy; you'll be kinder to the environment and have more money in your pocket too! Thanks to funding from Cadent, UK Power Network and the Energy Redress Scheme, we have an experienced team of specialists who can help you with this - they may even be able to visit you in your own home. Our advice is always free, confidential and impartial, so why not give us a call today to find out more.

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# CHURCH EVENTS IN OUR VILLAGES JANUARY 2025

## Church Services

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January

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

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January

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

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> 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 Communion,  
HUSCH\*

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January

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

For information on all these events,  
please contact [office@heuchurch.co.uk](mailto:office@heuchurch.co.uk)

\* Henham & Ugley School Hall

## SUNDAYS:

### Elsenham & Henham Sunday Club/ Explorers (Reception-Y5)

(Y1-Y6) Starts at EVH then on to  
Old Frank's, Elsenham, 10.15am  
Sundays: 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>

### Pathfinders (Y6-Y9)

HUSCH\*, Henham 6.00pm - leave  
from service to meet in the Church  
Room, Henham.  
Sundays: 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>

### Crammin' (Y10-Y13)

HUSCH\*, Henham 6.00pm followed  
by 7.00pm in the Church Room,  
Henham  
Sundays: 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>

## MID-WEEK AND SATURDAY:

### Start the Week with Prayer

Old Frank's, Elsenham, 9.30am  
Mondays: 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>

### Seekers After School Bible Club

(Y3-Y4) Old Frank's 3.20pm  
Mondays: 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>

### Christian Play (Y1-Y2)

Rowan House, Elsenham 3.15pm  
Tuesdays: 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>

### Little Fishes Pre-School Group

Church Hall, Henham 10.30am  
Thursday: 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>

### Little Fishes Pre-School Group

Elsenham Memorial Hall 10.00am  
Fridays: 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>

### Church Lunch Club

Elsenham Memorial Hall 12.30pm  
Fridays: (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month):  
10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>

### Afternoon Tea

OSCA, Henham 2.00pm  
Saturday: 18<sup>th</sup>



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# NATURAL OUTLOOK

By Heather Salvidge 📞 814153



Even when there are very few people about on the playing field, there seems to be no birds. Maybe there is still time over the winter to see some, not just magpies etc. but what I like to see, sheltering from winter storms, would be flocks of seagulls, even if they are in winter plumage.

There could be black-headed gulls (dark brown heads usually) smaller than most and now with a pale head and a dark spot behind its eyes. Herring gulls are bigger, grey backed with some black in their tails, a red spot on the beak and yellow eyes. Any juveniles with them are the same size but have varying amounts of blotchy brown feathers. Lesser black-back gulls are smaller, greater black-backs are larger than all these. Somewhere in the flock there may be a 'common gull' which isn't – smaller than a herring gull, its grey back is less obvious and its feathers are very white and its head very round, its legs are yellow and its smaller bill is too.

If gulls are 'not at home' I might go to bird reserves such as the Essex Wildlife Trust's Joan Elliott Visitor Centre near the coast where there are a variety of birds that you might see including 100s of shovellers, Egyptian geese, pochards, greylag geese, moorhens, pied wagtails and mallards plus gulls. Inland, there is the RSPB Centre at Rye Meads Wetlands on the Essex/Herts border where you can see, depending on the season, an amazing list of birds, residents and visitors e.g gadwall, teal, coots, tufted ducks, grey herons, Canada geese, kingfishers, grey wagtails, moorhens, starlings, green sandpipers – and more.

Going further north, nearer the fens just into Norfolk you get to Welney Wetlands Fen reserve which is on Station Road alongside the high bank of The New Bedford River. In the main building there is the reception, cafe and shop where there are good views out across Lady Fen. On the grassland area above the cafe you look down on the bird feeders where the tree sparrows feed, now in recovery of numbers, wrens, long-tailed-tits, cattle egrets when there are grazing cattle, moorhens, mallards, geese on some of the ponds and occasionally deer in the far distance. You cross the bridge over the New River and get to the main hide overlooking Welney Wash that holds back flood waters when necessary, so sometimes you get a lot and the birds are distant and in summer dry so that species wander around looking for puddles. When it's 'just right' often in autumn and later, there are the winter visitors; the barnacle geese, brent geese, whooper swans, smaller Bewick's swans, shelducks, male pintails. Overhead there is often a marsh harrier, looking down as there are water voles as well as birds, then redshanks, little egrets and great white egrets. Absorbing! Those of you who read Ray Franklin's articles may not be surprised that in 1999 he spent a lot of time working to find out the name of the rose that the first Sir Walter Gilbey planted at Elsenham Hall. It was called the 'Salet Rose' so Ray rang round the village to ask who wanted one to mark the Millennium. We said 'Yes' but were startled when it arrived that May when our flower beds were full so it was heeled in to a vegetable bed. Fortunately last autumn Paul had dug over the first half of the central bed in the back garden so we could transplant it there. It has established enough for it to flower this year, double roses in light pink. I look forward to next year - 2025. Thanks Ray.

Heather, now signing off.



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# U3A STANSTED

*Susan Sedgebeer*

✉ stanstedu3a@gmail.com

🌐 [www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted)



This December, we will be celebrating the festive season with a Christmas lunch at Bury Lodge and by hosting the inaugural meeting following our move to St Theresa's Centre with a Christmas Tea Party. Stansted Mountfitchet u3a is then set to launch the new year with two exciting events in January.

In 2025, the UK along with the rest of Europe will commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day which is celebrated on 8 May. Throughout the year, this significant event will be marked by various activities within the u3a. The first of these takes place at our General Meeting on Thursday 16th January, featuring a gripping personal story from World War II. The presentation will focus on one of the most daring RAF missions, involving low-level bombing with pinpoint accuracy. The mission, Ramrod 564, The Amiens Prison Raid, launched from RAF Hunsdon nearby in Hertfordshire in February 1944, was crucial in the lead-up to D-Day. Guy Thomas, Denis Sharp and Susan Sedgebeer will recount the story of the raid, featuring a first-hand account from the navigator of the second Mosquito to drop its bombs, breaching the outer wall.

For those who attended Mike Howgate's Saturday Seminar in May 2024, where he challenged the theory that birds evolved from dinosaurs, the upcoming seminar on Saturday 18 January offers the perfect follow-up. Professor David Norman from Cambridge University will present the opposing evidence, aiming to prove that birds did indeed evolve from dinosaurs. Whether you joined the previous seminar or not, this promises to be a fascinating session from one of Cambridge's leading paleobiologists.

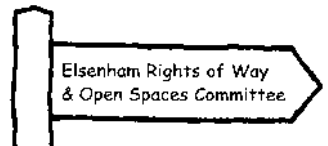
Visitors and new members are always welcome. For more information about our events and activities, visit [www.stansted.u3asite.uk/](http://www.stansted.u3asite.uk/) or call 07874 385541. As our u3a continues to grow, these events reflect our commitment to lifelong learning and a vibrant community spirit.

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## EROWOS

*By Margaret Shaw*

### No Boxing Day Ramble this year



Over recent years the number of people coming on the Boxing Day Ramble has dwindled, so sadly there will be no organised walk this year.

If you wish to walk there are lots of routes available on the EROWOS website:  
<https://e-voice.org.uk/erowos/village-walks>

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# LETTER TO THE EDITORS

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

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It is with deep sadness that we announce the unexpected passing of our beloved daughter, sister, and mother, Lucie Lodge, who passed away at home on Saturday, 12 October. This has been an incredibly difficult time for our family, and we would like to take a moment to express our heartfelt thanks to this wonderful village for all the love and support you've shown us.

It has truly touched us to see how much Lucie was loved by so many. Lucie was often seen around the village on her mobility scooter, always greeting everyone with her radiant smile. Many have shared how her bubbly personality and kind nature brightened their days. We know she will be deeply missed by all who knew her. We would also like to extend our sincerest gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the family's JustGiving page. Your generosity helped give Lucie the farewell she deserved, as well as provide support for her beautiful young family—Billy (15), Charlie (10), and Ollie (who recently turned 8)—in the days ahead.

Thank you from the bottom of our broken hearts for the kindness and compassion you've shown during this incredibly difficult time.

The Lodge Family

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I was delighted when I saw that de Mandeville Green had been selected to become a wild area to welcome back some of the native plants which butterflies and moths are finding more and more difficult to access.

Imagine then my disappointment when the whole area was mown recently. Then I found an article in Little Hadham village magazine about this very subject. Jono Forgham, the well-known and respected naturalist, explains the need to mow such areas at this time of year. So, all is not lost after all. Well done indeed!

Carol Wylde

---

I have just returned from the Act of Remembrance in the Memorial Gardens. It was a lovely simple service led so well by Charles.

I just wanted to say how impressed I was by the pupils of Elsenham School. They laid their own handmade wreath, and a group of the boys and girls took turns with their clearly spoken reading. They spoke so well and were aware of the meaning of the day.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank them, their teachers and parents for them making this special day. You must be very proud of them.

Teri Williams

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# THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

🏠 [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk)



Until the 19th century, education in England was mostly linked to religious institutions or funded by wealthy donors. The Education Act of 1870 made a commitment to the provision of education to all on a national scale.

The Hundred Parishes has some fine examples of schools that were founded prior to this time and continue to educate young people today.

Felsted School was founded in 1564 by Richard Rich, the first Baron Rich. Under Henry VIII, he accumulated immense wealth whilst overseeing the dissolution of the monasteries, and he was later appointed Lord Chancellor of England under King Edward VI.



*Felsted part of original school building*



*Stanstead Abbots Gatehouse to Rye House*

Dame Joyce Frankland, 1531-1588, lived at Rye House in Stanstead Abbots, the wife of the lord of the manor. Her son was killed by a fall from his horse. In her will, Dame Joyce remembered him by providing funds for the education of boys at many locations including the “free grammar schole” in Newport, now The Joyce Frankland Academy.

St, Edmund’s College in Standon parish is the oldest Catholic college in England. The main building dates from 1769. The school chapel is Grade I listed, built in the mid-19th century and designed by A.W.N. Pugin whose best-known work is Big Ben, the clock tower of the Houses of Parliament.



*St Edmund's College Chapel, Standon*

Some schools built after 1870 have adopted the names of notable locals. For example Leventhorpe Academy in Sawbridgeworth was established in 1965 and named after the Leventhorpe family. Sir John Leventhorpe died in 1625 and has one of the finest memorials in Sawbridgeworth parish church.

Ralph Sadleir School in Standon was founded in 1971 and named after Sir Ralph who was born in 1507 and knighted in 1543 by Henry VIII. When Queen Mary I came to the throne, Sir Ralph retired to live quietly in Standon.

*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](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk).*



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By *Stewart Pimblett*, Chairman ☎ 812359



I guess by now many of you that have walked or driven through and around Elsenham will have seen our advertising boards for the annual Christmas Tree Festival on the weekend of December 7 and 8. Already preparations are under way and as I write this article we have over fifty trees at this moment in time to support the event with entries still trickling in.

This is our main fund-raising event of the year for the Fabric Fund, so do come along with the family and enjoy the spectacle of the trees and lights. It will certainly lift your spirits and mood on a cold winter's day. Refreshments will be available throughout the weekend for you to enjoy. The event will also be an opportunity to see for yourselves how work has progressed on our new meeting room and toilet facilities at the Church. Hopefully, if the weather holds, completion should be in early January.

Finally, may I take this opportunity of wishing you all and your loved ones a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

## From The Parish Registers

### 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	<a href="mailto:office@heuchurch.co.uk">office@heuchurch.co.uk</a>	
Church web-site	<a href="http://www.heuchurch.co.uk">www.heuchurch.co.uk</a>	

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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We provide information, support and advice about your hair loss and identify the factors you will need to consider when choosing which solution is suitable for you.

We provide guidance on cutting and styling of your wig or integration piece and advice on what to do when your hair starts growing back.

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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# ELSENHAM BOWLS AND SOCIAL CLUB

*By Trevor Hackett*



Autumn may have arrived preventing bowling outside on our green, but I am pleased to say that the Bowls & Social Club still has plenty going on.

We are looking forward to our Christmas Dinner and Dance on December 14 when we have an Elton John tribute act providing entertainment after our meal. There are still a couple of places available if you are interested in joining us so you just might have time to book. The member price for the evening is £30 per person.

Importantly our AGM was held on November 28 and a new Club Committee elected. The first meeting of the new committee will be held in early December that will elect the Committee Chairman and set the focus for the club for 2025.

Looking into the New Year, there are a number of music acts already booked including an Elvis Presley Tribute, Around Midnite (3-piece band), Piccadilly Swing (trio), the Caverners (duo), Steve Brown and, back by popular demand, Neil Diamond. Other artists are yet to be confirmed. Tickets for the Elvis Presley tribute act on January 11, 2025, are already available at £7.50 for members and £12.50 for non-members. Ticket availability is limited so please call Trevor on ☎ 07445 437437 to secure your ticket for the event.

Bingo nights in December will be on 7 and 21 and in January on 4 and 18. Eyes down at 7.30 pm. You can just turn up for these events so please come along to the club on the night.

Our next Club Quiz Night is on January 25. Tables of eight at just £7 per person that includes a light supper. Reserve your table by calling Trevor on ☎ 07445 437437.

The Crib team have a break from league games in December but will recommence in January. We are also pleased to host the Darts Super League on Monday December 2 and January 27. Our club darts team continue to meet on a Thursday evening.

Short mat bowling in the club house continues Monday afternoons at 2 pm. You do not have to be a bowler to take part. This is relaxed time with tea and coffee available and the chance for a chat. If you are interested in having a go at short mat bowling, please join us on a Monday afternoon.

Social membership costs just £20 for the year. So, if you would like to make the most of all our activities and our member rates for our music nights, including very reasonable bar prices, contact the secretary for details of the opening hours (Therese Clear on ☎ 07759 158859) or to join as a Social or Bowling member contact the Membership Secretary Brenda Kendrick on ☎ 01279 870412.

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# ELSENHAM TENNIS CLUB

By Petra Studholme ☎ 814667



**ETC quiz on 16 November:** we raised vital funds for the club to help us maintain and improve the facilities (we want a new club house!) so thank you to all who attended to make it a success. Of course, big thank you also to Trevor (quizmaster) and the Bowls Club for their hospitality.

**AGM and new committee:** we held our AGM at the end of October, thanks to all members who attended. A new committee duly elected: Mike Stiles (chairperson), Paul Burt (treasurer), Linda Steer (secretary), Petra Studholme (membership secretary), Simona Marcoccia, Gavin Strickfuss and Steve Smith (committee members). Mike also thanked Emily Bloom who stood down due to arrival of a baby Bloom in the summer.

**Men's Team, and our new captain:** We would like to thank Jon Tann, who had done a tremendous job leading the team so successfully for many seasons. He is now standing down due to his ever-increasing family commitments. Let us introduce our new captain: "Hi I'm Henry Bishop. I am 17 years of age and have been an active member of Elsenham tennis club for 3 years. Recently, I have taken on the role of men's captain in the Essex Small Club League and I am driven to continuously improve and develop my tennis skills and to achieve successful outcomes with my team. "

**Club nights, cardio sessions and morning tennis:** Despite the nights drawing in, club nights are going strong thanks to Jim's superb organisational skills. Cardio tennis is also happening most Tuesdays to keep us fit and have a bit of fun, thanks to Steve's excellent tennis drills and choice of music to keep us moving. Our morning tennis groups play every Wednesday and Friday morning, without fail.

**Maintenance:** By the time you read this newsletter, hopefully we will have finished essential work on the courts, cleaning and moss-treatment. We also scheduled in work to mend the hut and fence which had suffered some damage over the past few years. Thank you to Viv and Richard (our garden fairies) who attend to the garden throughout the year to make it look so nice and Jim, James, Pete and Janet who help so much with weeding and general clearance and handywork.

**Christmas Tree Festival, 7-8 December:** Don't forget we are taking part again in this year's celebrations at St Mary's Church. So do come along and admire our and the other trees.

**Christmas club night, 17 December starting at 7.30pm:** a bit of festive play, Santa hats and tinsel are optional. We have been reliably informed that there will be mulled wine and mince pies again.

Last but not least we wish you all a **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**. If you have any enquires about the club (membership, lessons or ad hoc play, please email [mail@elsenhامتennisclub.co.uk](mailto:mail@elsenhامتennisclub.co.uk).



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## January 2025 diary

Sat 4 & 18	Bingo	Bowls & Social Club 7 for 7.30pm
Mon 6	Parish Council Meeting	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Tues 7 & 21	Elsenham Community Choir	Village Hall 7pm
Thurs 9	District Councillors' Surgery	OSCA Henham 6.30pm
Thurs 9	Elsenham Community Assoc	General Meeting
		Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Sat 11	Elvis Tribute Night	Bowls & Social Club 7.30pm
Fri 10 & 24	Church Lunch Club	Memorial Hall 12.30pm
Mon 13	Natter Night	The Crown 7.30
Tues 14 & 28	Life Drawing	Village Hall 7.30pm
Thurs 16	Elsenham WI	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Fri 17	Flower Show Society AGM	Memorial Hall 7.30pm
Thurs 23	Gong Baths	Memorial Hall 7.30pm
Sat 25	Farmers Market	Village Hall 12.30 - 2.30pm
Sat 25	Bowls & Social Club Quiz	Bowls & Social Club 7.30pm
Mon 27	Elsenham Eagles	The Crown 7.30pm



**Mobile Library**  
Every third Thursday stopping at Glebe End  
11.50 am to 12.20 pm Next visit: January 16

# STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

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

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Are you aware that the village cricket club has two beautiful grounds? Our main ground is off the Elsenham to Stansted Road, and the other is in the village of Molehill Green. We are a very active, friendly, and community-based club and are open to all. So why not come and have a look when the new season begins in April 2025.

Winter months are very busy at cricket clubs, trying to get organised for the following season. Stansted Hall & Elsenham Cricket Club is no exception. Firstly, we are trying to recruit new players for our senior teams. A couple of our 1st XI have moved away from the area and a couple are taking up different sports so we are actively looking for new blood. If you fancy playing in the Herts & Essex Border League Premier Division please contact us as below. We have a beautiful ground and you will receive a warm welcome – and lovely cricket tea on matchdays.

We are also updating our social media offering. When I say we, not me!!!

Our main club sponsors are already in place for next season, Russell Property our main sponsor and Nockolds for our junior section. We are also looking for advertisers for our fixture card.

Have a great Christmas and we wish you all a happy and healthy new year.

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## POTHoles AND ROAD PROBLEMS

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The Roadmender method of repairing roads using old lorry tyres is now being used. This method of repair reduces waste, and repairs roads more quickly.



### Report a road maintenance issue

If you think there's a risk to public safety, please either report the issue online at [essexhighways.org](https://www.essexhighways.org) or call on 0345 603 7631. If you have hearing problems, you can use the text service. Text 0345 758 5592.

An issue on the roads? Report it at [essexhighways.org](https://www.essexhighways.org)

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## GARDEN HINT *By Sue Johnson*

*Get some festive colour in the garden using evergreen plants with gold and silver variation or winter berries, such as aucuba, euronymous, skimmia or hollies.*

# POST OFFICE CHRISTMAS POSTING DATES



*Karen and The Team*

As Christmas is fast approaching, see below the last dates for posting for arrival before Christmas.

## Letters

December 18 for 2nd class  
December 20 for 1st. class post.

## Parcels

Evri  
20th December for standard service  
21st December for Next day service.

For all other parcel services via Royal Mail and Parcelforce please view on the web site [www.postoffice.co.uk](http://www.postoffice.co.uk)

As you will know the cost of a first-class stamps has risen to £1.65, but second class remains at 85p.

## Opening hours over the Christmas and New Year period

December 24 closing at 13.00	December 31 closing 16.00
December 25 closed	January 1 Closed
December 26 closed	

We have a range of Christmas cards, wrapping paper, labels and gifts from a local crafter should you need a last-minute card or gift Also available a wide range of electronic gift cards for the person you don't know what to buy.

Finally, the team here at The Post Office would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thank you for your support in 2024.

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📞 07583172539/ Facebook page : Logslogslogs

## COOKERY CORNER

By Sue Johnson 📞 812704

---



These crispy biscuits could be included in your Christmas hampers without too much effort. The mixture can easily be frozen in advance, defrosted in the fridge overnight, sliced and baked at the last minute.

### **PISTACHIO AND CRANBERRY COOKIES (makes 22)**

6oz (175g) butter, softened

3oz (85g) golden caster sugar

½ teaspoon vanilla extract

8oz (225g) plain flour

2½oz (75g) pistachios

2½oz (75g) dried cranberries

Mix the butter, sugar, and vanilla extract with a wooden spoon in a large bowl. Stir in the flour, then add in the pistachios and cranberries. Use your hands to bring the mix together into a soft dough. Halve the mixture and shape into two logs about 5cm diameter. Wrap in cling film, then chill for an hour or freeze for up to 3 months.

Line a couple of large baking trays with baking parchment.

Heat the oven to 180°C/160°C fan oven/gas 4. Slice the logs into 1cm thick rounds, place these on the baking tray and bake for 15 minutes. Cool completely on the tray.

### **CHEF'S RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Use a mixer if you have one. You could use chopped white chocolate, or chopped walnuts, in place of the pistachios for a change.



The Team at Elsenham Farmers Market would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and enjoyable 2025; and we really look forward to seeing you at the Market soon!

There will NOT be a Market in December, as it would fall during the festive holiday, and we felt that everyone would be too busy enjoying themselves, so we will be back on Saturday 25th January 2025.

The Market is always from 12.30-2.30pm on the last Saturday of every month, but just to make things easier, these are the dates for the first half of 2025:-

- 25th January
- 22nd February
- 29th March
- 26th April
- 31st May
- 28th June

We will have many of our fabulous regular sellers, including delicious sourdough bread from Mapuldor, preserves, chutneys and oils from Mel and her Condiment Cupboard, local meat from The Flying Pig - just perfect for the weekend - the most amazing coffee & cakes from Coco Fleur, moreish macarons & bronuts from Cake Path, and even your dog is catered for with Sid n Ivy's superb homemade dog treats!

You will be able to buy eggs, honey, flowers, homemade savouries perfect for lunch, fish and yummy pies, British cheeses, wild local game, sustainable cleaning products, homemade fresh & natural juice shots, fresh fruits and vegetables, and we are constantly on the lookout for new and interesting sellers of consumable produce.

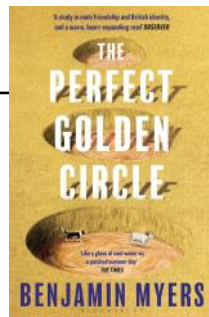
Make it your New Year's resolution to shop locally and help support these small businesses, and of course all proceeds from the Market go to local charities.

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

Best wishes from Elsenham Farmers Market Team



**THE PERFECT GOLDEN CIRCLE** by Benjamin Myers  
Reviewed by Sarah Alder for Elsenham Book Group



*'England, 1989. Over the course of a burning hot summer, two very different men – traumatized Falklands veteran Calvert, and affable, chaotic Redbone – set out nightly in a clapped-out camper van to undertake an extraordinary project. Under cover of darkness, the two men traverse the fields of rural England in secret, forming crop circles in elaborate and mysterious patterns. As the summer wears on, and their designs grow ever more ambitious, the two men find that their work has become a cult international sensation – and that an unlikely and beautiful friendship has taken root as the wheat ripens from green to gold.'*

*Moving and exhilarating, tender and slyly witty, The Perfect Golden Circle is a captivating novel about the futility of war, the destruction of the English countryside, class inequality – and the power of beauty to heal trauma and fight power. . ' So says the blurb on the back of the book.*

- **“A spirited and anarchic novel... a roiling, rollicking crop-circle folk tale ”** *The Guardian*

This was the choice of the book group last month. The AI generated summary of reviews on Amazon said:

*“Customers find the book enjoyable, profound, and gentle. They also appreciate the witty and funny banter between the main characters. Readers describe the concept as remarkable and magical. They appreciate the beautiful depictions of the English countryside. Opinions are mixed on the writing style, with some finding it beautifully written and gorgeous, while others say it's overly complicated and forced.’*

Book group readers also liked the gentleness of the book and the characters' and the author's appreciation of the natural world and the English countryside. Both the main characters in their different ways wanted to show that appreciation and to do something that took them physically close to the landscape. We discussed how they made the crop circles, how the author explained it enough for the reader to believe it could be done, without making it a manual or being too detailed.

There were mixed views on the descriptive language. A general feeling that there was too much description across the book as a whole and it was too wordy, too many metaphors and that made the book heavy going in places.

Everyone's favourite part was the press reports on each crop circle and the crazy explanations given for them. It was delightful to remember how this worked in a pre-mobile phone, pre-social media era. Don't think Calvert and Redbone would've escaped scrutiny if they'd tried it this year.

# 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 8<sup>th</sup> of each month.

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

**Copy submitted after the 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> to allow for scanning etc.

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

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

*Elsenham 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](mailto:elsenhamsnews@hotmail.co.uk)**

## Advertising

The costs are as follows:

	Single Insertion	Annual Cost (11 issues)
Half Page	£20.00	£190.00
Quarter Page	£10.00	£100.00
Inside Page	£50.00	n/a
Back Page	£75.00	n/a

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

## To place an advertisement:

If you have any queries, please email us. Please send your advert as Word or Publisher via email to:  
**[elsenhamsnews@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:elsenhamsnews@hotmail.co.uk)**

**Advertising Editor: TBA**

## Business Advertising

Cheques should be made payable to "**Elsenham Community Association**".

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

**Previous issues of Elsenham News are available on the ECA Website**

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Bingo 1st & 15th February 7 for 7.30 Bowls & Social Club

Elsenham Village History Society AGM 12 March 2024 8pm Memorial Hall

Elsenham Community Association AGM 13 March 7.45pm Memorial Hall

## VILLAGE CONTACTS

Airport Roadside Parking		0800 731 2385
Beavers	1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com	
Bowls Club	Therese Clear	816535 or 07759 158859
Brownies	elsenhambrownies@gmail.com	
Church Office (Old Frank's, 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 Eagles	elsenham.action@btinternet.com	
Elsenham Farmers Market	elsenhamfarmersmarket@gmail.com	
Elsenham Surgery	www.elsenhamsurgery.nhs.uk	814730
Elsenham C of E Primary School	Linda Todd Headteacher	813198
Elsenham Church PCC Secretary	David Hill	812397
Elsenham Fete	ElsenhamSummerFete@gmail.com	
Elsenham Rights of Way website	www.e-voice.org.uk/erowos/	
Friends of Elsenham School (FOES)	Louise Judd	foespata@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
Uttlesford District Councillors	Petrina Lees	07713 074656
(for Elsenham & Henham)	Bianca Donald	07941 880279
Village Hall Bookings	elsenhamvillagehall@gmail.com	
Womens Institute Secretary	Gill Hathaway	813385
Youth Football Club (Chairman)	Ricky Lambourne	info@elsenhamyfc.co.uk

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

# HAVE YOU BOOKED YOUR CHRISTMAS PARTY?

Unsure what to do for your works do?

Why not try the following package?  
Unlimited Driving Range balls for the duration of the party and all clubs, with a lively party atmosphere & music! Included in the price is iced Budweiser upon arrival with our Christmas Buffet menu for the celebration!  
**ALL OF THIS FOR £25.95 PER PERSON!!**  
EMAIL FOR MORE DETAILS!!



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