

Elsenham News

St. Mary's Elsenham Fabric Fund present :

Christmas Tree Festival



In St. Mary's Church

December 6th - 7th

10.30 - 5.00

EVERYONE WELCOME

All donations go towards maintaining
your beautiful Norman Church

There will be no Elsenham News in January.
Our next issue will be February.

elsenhamnews@hotmail.co.uk

December 2025

December 2025
January 2026

Elsenham Village Regular Monthly or Quarterly Activities

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

December 2025 diary

Mon 1	Parish Council Meeting	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Tues 2 & 16	Elsenham Community Choir	Village Hall 7pm
Wed 3	District Councillors' Surgery	Orwell House, Station Road Elsenham 6.15pm
Thurs 4 & 18	Community Supermarket	Memorial Hall o/s 1.30-3.30pm
Sat & Sun 6/7	Christmas tree festival	St Mary's Church 10.30am-5pm
Sun 7	Christmas wreath workshop	Memorial Hall 10am & 2.30pm
Tues 9	Natter Night	The Crown 7.30pm
Tues 9	Life Drawing	Village Hall 7.30pm
Fri 12	Church Lunch Club	Memorial Hall 12.30pm
Sat 13	Christmas Carol Extravaganza	Village Hall 3pm
Sun 14	Carols by Candlelight	St Mary's Church 7pm
Thurs 18	WI	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Sat 20	Bingo	Bowls & Social Club 7 for 7.30pm
Wed 24	Village Carols	Memorial Garden 5-5.30pm



Mobile Library
Every third Saturday stopping at Glebe End

9.30am to 10am Next visits: 20 December, 10 & 31 January 2026

Elsenham Village Regular Weekly Activities

Day	Time	Activity	Location
Monday	9.30-10.30am	Zumba	Memorial Hall
	10.30-11.30am	Health walk	Start at De Mandeville Green
	4-4.30pm	Rascals (3-4yrs)	Memorial Hall (term time)
	4.30-5.30pm	Rascals (5-7yrs)	Memorial Hall (term time)
	5.30-7pm	Rascals (8-12yrs)	Memorial Hall (term time)
	7-7.45pm	Pilates	Elsenham Village Hall
Tuesday	9.30-11.30am	Village Café Coffee	Memorial Hall
	12.15-1pm	Touchpoint Food Share	Memorial Hall
	4.45-5.45pm	Rainbows	Memorial Hall (term-time)
	4.45-5.45pm	Beavers	Ugley Village Hall (term-time)
	6-7.15pm	Cubs (Wolf Pack)	Ugley Village Hall (term-time)
	6-7.30pm	Brownies	Memorial Hall (term-time)
	7.30-10.30pm	Tennis Club night	Tennis Courts
	8pm	Fitness Yoga/Pilates	Memorial Hall
Wednesday	9.45-11.30	Tots and Toddlers	Memorial Hall
	6.30-7.15pm	Women's strength and Mobility	Village Hall
	7-9pm	Scouts	Ugley Village Hall (term-time)
	7.30pm	Aerobics	Elsenham Village Hall
Thursday	9-10am	Teddy Bear Music	Memorial Hall (term-time)
	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	8.30am-noon	Tarte au Citroen	Playing Field
	8.15am-1pm	Youth boys & girls football	Playing Field
	8.45-9.30am	Little Kickers Mighty	Village Hall (term time)
	9-10am	Forte Dance Class	Memorial Hall
	9.35-10.20am	Little Kickers Junior	Village Hall (term time)

January 2026 diary

Sat	3, 17 & 30	Bingo	Bowls & Social Club 7 for 7.30pm
Mon	5	Parish Council Meeting	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Tues	6 & 20	Elsenham Community Choir	Village Hall 7pm
Thurs	8	Elsenham ECA Meeting	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Fri	9 & 23	Church Lunch Club	Memorial Hall 12.30pm
Sat	10	Music Night / Rat Pack Rock	Bowls & Social Club 7.30 for 8pm
Tues	13	Natter Night	The Crown 7.30pm
Tues	13 & 27	Life Drawing	Village Hall 7.30pm
Thurs	15 & 29	Community Supermarket	Memorial Hall o/s 1.30-3.30pm
Thurs	15	WI	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Fri	16	Flower Show Society AGM	Memorial Hall 7.30pm
Sat	24	Bowls & Social Club Quiz	Bowls & Social Club 7.30 for 8pm
Mon	26	Elsenham Eagles	Bowls & Social Club 7.15pm
Fri	30	Women's Wellness Breakfast	Bowls & Social Club 9.30-11am
Sat	31	Farmers' Market	Village Hall 12.30-2.30pm

There will be no Elsenham News in January. Our next issue will be February.



CROFT TURKEYS




TRADITIONAL FARM FRESH BRONZE TURKEYS
 FED WITH HOME GROWN CORN
 TO ORDER YOUR OVEN READY TURKEY, PLEASE CONTACT:
CHRIS MIZEN
THAXTED (01371) 831033
MOBILE 07702048457
 LOVES FARM, OUTLERS GREEN, THAXTED, ESSEX



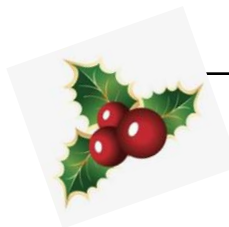
LOGS LOGS LOGS

- Well seasoned hard wood
- Transit load / bulk builder bag
- Cut to fire size

Call today ☎ **01279 718555**
 Or email ✉ dar13@mail.com

THE NEWS REPORT

From The Editors



At this time of year it is time to stop and reflect on the past 12 months and what has been achieved. Rarely are achievements solely the work of one individual. That is certainly true when we reflect on all that has happened with Elsenham News.

During the course of the year we switched to an online only publication. This would not have been possible without the support of the ECA and, in particular, Margaret Shaw and Ian Jackson. Also, a special thanks to former ECA chair Allan Hathaway.

The team that makes it possible to produce this publication every month have been steadfast in their support and I can not thank them enough: Anne White, Patricia Davis and Angie Wenlock. A very special mention for Emma Bailey and Marion Giles without whom I would be struggling every month! Thank you all.

Thanks also to Margaret Shaw and Graham Mott for checking over the contents each month to ensure no bloopers before we 'go to press'.

The change to online meant we lost a lot of people that previously were vital to the magazine and getting it into homes throughout the village. Chris and Roger Bowker headed up the distribution team and my sincere thanks to them and their army of distributors for all their sterling work over the years. I truly appreciate everything you did for us.

Finally, thank you to all our contributors and advertisers for your continued support.

Merry Christmas and very best wishes for the New Year to you all.

Gary Williams, Editor Elsenham News



Regular features

Parish Council	7	U3a	31
Development Developments	9	Harmonaires	33
Village History Society	11	100 Parishes	35
Daisy May's Farm	13	Newport & Dist. Flower Club	37
Elsenham WI	15	Elsenham Cricket Club	37
District Councillors' Report	17&19	Bowls Club	39
Community Choir	19	Elsenham Flower Show Soc.	41
Ray's Reflections	21	Parish Registers	41
Touchpoint Appeal	23	Book Review	43
Church Calendar	25 & 27	Cookery Corner	45
St. Marys Fabric Fund	29		

S. PERRY

CHAPEL END NURSERY

NEW STOCK:

ROSES, SHRUBS, TREES, HEDGING
FRUIT TREES AND BUSHES
WINTER PANSIES, WALLFLOWERS, SPRING BULBS

**Water Softener
SALT TABLETS 25kg
£14 EACH**

**Christmas Trees
available from
Late November**

**DECORATIVE BARK
TERRACOTTA & GLAZED
PLANTERS & POTS**

**WE ARE
HERE**

**NEW STOCK: ROSES, SHRUBS, TREES, HEDGING
FRUIT TREES AND BUSHES
WINTER PANSIES, WALLFLOWERS, SPRING BULBS**

**WATER SOFTENER
SALT TABLETS 25kg
£14 EACH**

**Christmas Trees
available from
Late November**

**DECORATIVE BARK
TERRACOTTA & GLAZED
PLANTERS & POTS**

WE ARE
HERE



Mr FOTHERGILLS SEEDS
BUY 5 PACKETS GET
CHEAPEST PACKET FREE

**OPEN 9 am to 5 pm
MONDAY to SATURDAY
(CLOSED: SUNDAY)
MOLEHILL GREEN ROAD
BROXTED DUNMOW ESSEX CM6 2BW
01279 850771
www.chapelendnurserysperry.co.uk**

BASKET & TUB PLANTS
VEGETABLE PLANTS
ALPINES
HERBACEOUS
HERBS
ROSES
SHRUBS
POND PLANTS
AQUATIC COMPOST
GODWINS COMPOST
WILD BIRD FOOD
SUNDRIES

Christmas
Womens' Pudding
Evening

December 4th
Henham Church
7:30 for 8pm

Delicious desserts, fizz, Christmas quiz, Christmassy things to make and a chance to hear again about that first Christmas. What's not to like? Oh, and some carols

To book your place or reserve a table:
email

office@heuchurch.co.uk
www.heuchurch.org



ELSENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

3 NOVEMBER

By Louise Johnson, Clerk.

louise.epc@gmail.com ☎ 07456 791727

📄 www.elsenhams-pc.gov.uk/

📄 www.facebook.com/elsenhams/



Fiona Gardiner has now officially joined Elsenham Parish Council. Fiona will begin her duties as Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer on 1 December 2025.

Uttlesford District Council cannot act on illegal airport parking at Home Farm until a planning inspector rules on the owner's appeal. The owners cite advanced bookings and potential income loss as reasons to continue operating. These reasons are outrageous. Elsenham Parish Council has submitted objections, requesting that the appeal be rejected.

A section of the playing field boundary fence was cut to make an entrance and path from Barley Way onto the playing field. This is a criminal act and has been reported to the police. The Playing Field Committee agreed to keep monitoring the situation.

A councillor raised the issue of establishing a safe and practical route connecting Elsenham to Henham, emphasizing that people should not have to walk on the road as it is dangerous. The suggestion was that this should be a joint project with Henham Parish Council. It was pointed out that there are currently three footpaths leading to Henham, and Henham Parish Council has plans to enhance them.

Excess water on Hall Road is due to overflow from the spring-fed pond on Church Road. Normally draining through a pipe to Stansted Brook, the flow is blocked by clogged drains and filled-in ditches. Elsenham Parish Council reported this to Essex Highways, and since there has been no response, will now ask Essex County Council for a full investigation and resolution.

The bus consultation has finished. Should the feedback result in timetable adjustments, new schedules will be shared and details posted on Facebook.



The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 5 January at 7.45pm in the Memorial Hall. All residents are welcome.

GLYNN'S CHIMNEY SWEEPS

Est. 1995



**VACUUM AND
BRUSH**
**NACS MEMBERS
HETAS APPROVED**

COMPETITIVELY PRICED

01279 424983

www.glynnschimneysweeps.com



TRADITIONAL DRIVEWAYS

☎ 01992 450356
☎ 07961 882027

✉ tdmaintenance@btinternet.com
www.tdms-driveways.com

Block paving specialists. Black and red tarmac. Hand and machine laid tarmac. Turfing and fencing. Residential and commercial. All work guaranteed. Free estimates.



Street Dance Pop Singing Acting

**FREE
Trial
Offer**



**New classes in
Elsenham**

For more details:
Tel: 01376 331543
Email: admin@rascals-uk.com
Web: www.rascals-uk.com

Fun classes
inspiring Confidence,
Character & Creativity
for children aged 3-12yrs

Binwash

We clean
your
wheelie
bins!



Commercial & Domestic

Low cost & highly efficient service!

Professional machinery

4 weekly schedule or one-off clean

High pressure wash and dried

Disinfected and deodorised

www.binwash-uk.com
01799 529899
enquiries@binwash-uk.com

DEVELOPMENT DEVELOPMENTS

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



When I remember, I offer a round-up of all outstanding developments in the last issue of the year. The biggest unknown as I write is the outcome of Gladman's application for 240 homes to the north of Bedwell Road. Uttlesford District Council's Planning Committee duly refused it on 2 July on the grounds of noise from the motorway, and Gladman duly appealed. The Appeal Inquiry commences on 2 December. On the other side of Bedwell Road, the development of 50 homes has not yet officially commenced, despite preliminary site clearance. The scheme was given detailed approval under the S62A procedure in November 2024 (that's right, over a year ago). It looks as if the bright idea of erecting three-storey 'affordable' flats towards the motorway in order to baffle the noise has been stymied, in that no housing provider has come forward prepared to take on the management of such an unappealing asset.

Off Robin Hood Road, detailed approval for 40 homes was given by UDC's Planning Committee on 22 October. There was a marked lack of enthusiasm by the members of the Committee, who thought the design poor and uninspired. Approval was proposed with reluctance and two members abstained. The Committee took seriously the insistence by the locals that there are natural springs in the field proposed for development. The promise of a hydrological report did not impress - one Committee member pointedly remarked that surely the report should come before the approval, otherwise they might be agreeing to the building of new houses on top of the springs.

Dandara duly completed their 99 homes on two sites (Woodland Drive off Isabel Drive and Crown Drive off Stansted Road), with completion of the children's play area unsurprisingly coming last. Off Hall Road, nearly half of the 130 homes scheduled on the Vistry site (now Golden Miller Avenue, after a racehorse's unequalled exploits in the 1930s) are occupied, with the remainder expected before the end of 2026. The developer has applied to defer completing the PRoW through the site until after all the homes are occupied, which effectively gives them 'until the last syllable of recorded time' (*Macbeth*, V, v, 21). Objections have been made that it should be rather earlier, if any of the potential benefit is to be realised.

Bloor Homes continue their concerted effort to infill all the land between Elsenham and Henham with housing. 'Phase 1' comprises 350 homes, and somewhere between 250 and 300 are occupied. 'Phase 2', 200 homes, is well under way, with first occupation expected before Easter. A full application has been made for 'Phase 3', 129 homes, which Bloor confidently expects to be approved as the site was included in the Local Plan, albeit with the lesser number of 110. Lastly, a detailed application is still awaited for 130 homes given outline approval opposite the Crown back in June 2023.

UDC's Local Plan should be adopted in 2026, but there is enough development already approved in the village to last out the year.



replaceglaze^{com}

Replace, Repair & Revive Your Double Glazing

All types of double glazing repairs, maintenance & installations, including emergency callouts. At replaceglaze.com we provide a reputable, family-run double glazing repair & installation service.

Our services include:

- Double glazing installations, repairs & maintenance
- Aluminium, composite & uPVC installations
- Windows & door handles
- Locks & hinges
- Mistied units
- Patio door wheels
- Door adjustments & lubrication
- Aluminium bifolding doors
- Composite doors
- Aluminium/uPVC roof lanterns



☎ 01279 282997 01371 701000

✉ info@replaceglaze.com 🌐 www.replaceglaze.com

📷 [replaceglaze](https://www.instagram.com/replaceglaze)

ELSENHAM VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

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



As the year draws to an end and Christmas appears on the horizon, one tends to look back at what has gone before. The village has seen many Christmas gatherings over the years but none more prestigious perhaps than the one that took place just before Christmas 1889 when Mr Walter Gilbey 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, the 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.

While looking back, I realised that earlier in the year our society celebrated its fifteenth birthday. Since our inaugural meeting on 10th February 2010, apart from the 2021 Covid lockdown, we have held four meetings every year. In that time we have welcomed fifty eight speakers some more than once, speaking about all sorts from the ‘Great Plague’ to Holidays by the Sea’, ‘Local Railways’ to ‘Mediaeval Woodworking’ and much more. More than 160 newsletters have been written as well as notes of all those speakers’ talks.

Who said we wouldn’t last!

Of course all those newsletters and meeting minutes are all available on our website together with lots more information, photographs and a village timeline that starts in 61AD! The web address is shown in the article header so please take a few minutes to have a look and see what you can learn about your village.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 11 March 2026 and will include our AGM. The speaker for the meeting will be Mark Cook who will speak about “Policing in The Met and Essex” I hope you will be able to join us at the start of our year and of course, visitors are always welcome.

Finally it only remains to wish all of you reading this A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.



S.E.P
TREE CARE & GARDEN MAINTENANCE

Tree Topping & Felling
 Pruning & Pollarding
 Hedges cut, Trimmed & Removed
 All waste Chipped & Removed
 Garden, Garage & Site Clearance
 Gravel Driveways & Paths
 Fencing
 Turf Supplied & Laid
 Jet Washing Paths & Driveways
 Local Tradesman
 20 years experience
 For a free estimate Phone
07903 621657
08000 588057
 14 Day Cooling off Period



CHIROPODIST & PODIATRIST

Bishop's Stortford

- Orthotics
- Diabetic Foot Care
- Saturday Clinics
- Routine Treatment

R. Handford & Colleagues
 H.C. P.C Registered

Bishop's Stortford - 16 Hockerill Street

01279 652249

www.feet.org.uk

Clare's *Gents hairstylist*
 @ Rickling Green

★ Appointments from
 7am Mon-Sat

★ FREE easy parking

★ Fully qualified
 & insured



Call: 01799 542424
 Text: 07791 058406

City & Guilds
 Qualified



Luxury Toilet Hire (UK) Ltd



Whether you are arranging a wedding,
 private party or corporate event, let
 Luxury Toilet Hire (UK) Ltd
 provide you with the perfect toilet facility
 to make your occasion a memorable success.

Cesspit emptying also undertaken.

Tel: 01371 873003 or 01279 504638
 Email: info@luxurytoilethire.co.uk
 Web: www.luxurytoilethireltd.co.uk



We also hire out mobile fridge
 and freezer units.



Please contact us for a quote:

Tel: 01371 873003 or 01279 504638

Email: info@chillermatic.com Web: www.chillermatic.com



Daisy May's Farm

Hall Road, Elsenham, CM22 6DN

Daisy May's Farm is a not-for-profit venture and has been going for nearly 15 years. We operate in a variety of ways. The most well known venture is the part of the farm where we welcome visitors in to meet and greet the large variety of animals that we have and we run lots of exciting seasonal animal based activities.

As we have more animals, the breeding season goes on for longer, so we have babies of all sorts of shapes and sizes for most of the year and these are always so popular among our visitors. We run many seasonal and tailor made activities, so in the Spring, you can help hatch chicks, hold them when they are a little older, bottle feed lambs and kid goats, all under supervision of course! You can milk our nanny goat, hold a rabbit, groom ponies, feed the animals and so much more.

We run Halloween and Christmas events and in the summer holidays there is always plenty to do as we have camping on the Farm, a beach and animal feed is always on offer, so our visitors get a great chance to get up close with the animals. We have woods to ramble through, an enclosed playground, hot and cold food available, a train ride, seasonal arts and crafts and of course all of this is outside, so lots of fresh air and exercise is the order of the day.

We are very involved with the wider community and visit lots of fetes, farmers markets, care homes and schools to spread the word.

Running a farm takes a huge amount of money and our events are a vital lifeline for us to raise funds to help feed and look after our animal and we can only do this with your help and support. You can help us to raise funds by coming to our events and by generally visiting the Farm as we are open every day. Visit our Facebook Page to find out what is going on.

We are very lucky that we have volunteers to help, but we are always in need of more. Are you good at DIY or building, love getting involved with animals or like being out in the fresh air? Then please get in touch.

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.

**THINKING OF SELLING OR
RENTING YOUR PROPERTY?**

Please call either of us to find out
how we can help make your move
a whole new experience!

Nicola 07909 548028
Jacqui 07956 513238



hpc (State Registered)
Chiropodist

CH09088

Home Visiting Practice

Mrs. Julie Golden
Est. 1994
01279 873492

**A professional service at a
competitive rate**

Mat Duxbury
PAINTING

Professional Interior and Exterior Painting Specialist

References available on request

20 Years' experience

Fully Insured

NVQ Qualified and Health and Safety Certified

Local, reliable and friendly service guaranteed

For a free estimate please contact Mat on ☎ 07810 250426 or
email ✉ mat@duxburypainting.co.uk

ELSENHAM



ELSENHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

By Moyra Jackson ☎ 647351



"It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas" – I am not sure who you prefer singing this, I am perfectly happy with the Michael Bublé version! The weather really has taken on a bit of a wintry feel so I hope you are sitting with your drink of choice (hot chocolate for me please) and keeping nice and warm.

As our WI year draws to an end we are already looking forward to 2026 – a new programme of events and more time to enjoy them without the jam-packed month we are probably all about to rush headlong into.

Elsenham WI will once again have a tree in the Christmas Tree Festival and our wonderful 'Christmas Elves' Brenda Parish and Chris Samuels will be in charge of dressing the tree. This year we are decorating it based on one of our campaigns – Dental Health Matters. We have been making bags to hold dental supplies, all donated by our members and after the Tree Festival, all the bags will be given to Safer Places Refuge ensuring anyone needing their help has basic supplies when they arrive.



Many thanks to all the team at Elsenham News for their hard work and support in what has been year of change for the magazine.

To all our readers on behalf of our members I would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New 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!



TAKELEY IRONING & DRY CLEANING

OPENING TIMES
MONDAY - FRIDAY 8AM - 5PM
SATURDAY 8AM TO 12PM

FREE LOCAL COLLECTION & DELIVERY TO YOUR DOOR

Takeley, Elsenham, Henham, Stansted, Felsted, Hatfield Broad Oak, Hatfield Heath, Sheering, Dunmow, Sawbridgeworth, Broxton, Spellbrook, Molehill Green, Broxton, Little Canfield.

- ✓ WASHING & IRONING
- ✓ IN HOUSE DRY CLEANING
- ✓ 48 HOUR SERVICE
- ✓ DUVETS
- ✓ CURTAINS
- ✓ ALTERATIONS
- ✓ WEDDING DRESSES

The Centre, Dunmow Road (Behind Londis)
Takeley, Bishops Stortford
Herts, CM22 6SH

Email: takeleyironing@gmail.com
takeleydrycleaning@gmail.com

Tel: 01279 871245

Website: www.takeleydrycleaning.co.uk

MASKALLS TREE SURGERY

Small family business

Big expertise
in trees

Call George

M: 07982 601 570 | T: 01279 819 127

email: george@maskalls.co.uk

www.maskalls.co.uk



All types of tree care & hedge cutting undertaken.
Call for a free estimate.



DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

✉ Cllrdonald@uttlesford.gov.uk

☎ 07941 880279

✉ Cllrlees@uttlesford.gov.uk

☎ 07713 074656



It was an honour and privilege to represent the District Council at our Memorial Service on Sunday 9 November. As usual, an excellent turn out for Elsenham and a real joy to see the Scout and Guiding Groups attending. Thank you to all those attended.

How we receive our information is becoming more and more digital, with that in mind, we would like to signpost to our website www.uttlesford.gov.uk. It is updated regularly and a real mine of information. Our Scrutiny Department recently concentrated on our Uttlesford Community Safety Partnership. We work in partnership to help everyone in Uttlesford feel safe in their homes; in the streets and the places they go.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended by the Police Reform Act 2002) sets out the statutory requirements for responsible authorities to work with other local agencies, organisations and people, to develop and implement strategies to tackle crime and disorder, help create safer communities and tackle misuse of drugs in their area. These statutory partnerships are known as Community Safety Partnerships (CSP). CSP in partnership is made **up of** Uttlesford District Council, Essex Police, Essex Probation, Essex Fire and Rescue Service and Uttlesford Community Action Network (UCAN). All are working towards the following key priorities in line with the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex. Our key priorities are protecting vulnerable people, promoting healthy relationships, promoting online safety, building community resilience and tackling emerging trends. These support the Police and Crime Plan 2021-2028 on the PFCC for Essex website, which sets out the policing priorities and aims to keep Essex safe.

The **population** of Uttlesford (as of 2021 census) is roughly **97,500 people** — about the same number as Wembley Stadium can hold! The size of **Uttlesford District** is **about 641 square kilometres (248 square miles)**, which could hold around 6,700 Wembley Stadiums (if packed side by side). Which is why we are Tackling Rural Priorities. We are working on drawing together our understanding of issues and challenges facing our villages and rural communities, including rural isolation, poverty, homelessness, rural crime, rural economy and safety issues. We are developing a coherent plan across a range of interventions we and other partners both currently make and can potentially introduce to serve our communities. We are working to identify specific initiatives that will be implemented under this scheme. We want to ensure this scheme is up and running prior to Local Government Reorganisation.

Some good news, Uttlesford was recognised earlier this year as one of the most improved councils in the 2025 National Climate Emergency Actions Score Cards and highest in the East of England.

Continued on next page

CARPETS 2 U

Carpet, laminate, Lvt, vinyl, karndean
All types of flooring done

The best for less

Latex floor levelling, plyboarding preparation
Old uplifted and disposed of
Plenty of choice brought to your home

I try to give the best quality for your budget.
30 years' experience

Steve 07939 739845
Carpets2u@icloud.com



Elsenham Tots & Toddlers Group



We meet in the Memorial Hall on Elsenham Playing Field

Wednesdays at 9.45am to 11.30am (Term Time only)

**All are welcome - Mums to be, babies & toddlers up to 5years - with
mum or dad, grandparent or carer**

MEET OTHERS

**We have a very safe and friendly environment in which to play
and have fun**

Drop in for a chat and a coffee - Your first week is free

Then it's £3 per adult & first child,

50p per additional child over 12 months

**Please message Dawn on 07944 841358 for more
information**

Lots of Toys



Elsenham Tots and Toddler Group

MAKE FRIENDS

Have Fun



ELSENHAM COMMUNITY CHOIR

Did you know that singing in a choir can help your self esteem, build your confidence, help you to make new friends, engage the emotions and most importantly, enable all sorts of people to come together to meaningfully create something wonderful?

So why don't you try doing something wonderful?

Come and join us on the first and third Tuesday of every month at 7.00pm until 8.30pm in Elsenham Village Hall (by Elsenham Primary School).

There are no auditions at our choir, everyone is welcome, just come along and sing!

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

Don't forget we will be performing our **Christmas Choral Extravaganza** on **Saturday 13 December, Elsenham Village Hall** (next to the school) **from 3pm**.

We will be singing a variety of festive songs, some old and some completely new to us and we would love you to join us!

Continued from previous page

At the time of writing the bin collection over the Christmas period has not been published. Do look out for the change of dates (<https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/>).

May we take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a peaceful healthy new year.

Our next monthly surgery will be held on Wednesday 3 December at Orwell House Station Road Elsenham, at 6.15pm. Residents are welcome to drop in without an appointment. As always, you can also contact us directly by email or phone with any questions about this report or any District Council matters.

180 Youth Darts Academy

An Affiliated Unicorn Academy



Everyone's Welcome 4-21 years old and of all abilities

All sessions are free of charge and all equipment is available.

Venue – Elsenham Bowls Club, Leigh Drive, Elsenham CM22 6BY

All Sessions are 10am-1pm

For more information or to register please email :- 180youthdarts180@gmail.com

Session dates for 2025/2026

Saturday 4th October Saturday 18th October Saturday 1st November

Saturday 15th November Saturday 22nd November Saturday 13th December

Saturday 3rd January Saturday 17th January Saturday 31st January

Saturday 14th February Saturday 28th February Saturday 14th March

Proudly Sponsored by



Follow us on



@180Youthdarts



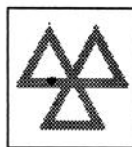
@180Youthdarts

Email :- 180youthdarts180@gmail.com

Tel :- 07972013150

GARRETT'S GARAGE SERVICES

42 Golds Business Park, Elsenham
Bishop's Stortford, Herts CM22 6JX



• Mechanical Repairs

• Servicing

• Tyres

• Engine Tuning

• Computer Diagnosis

• Windscreen Repairs

• M.O.T.'s - Catalyst
& Diesel Tested

• E.H.D.C. - Authorised
Hackney Carriage
Testers

• Batteries

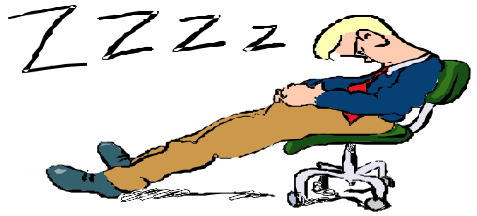
• Exhausts

*MODERN WELL
MAINTAINED
WORKSHOP*

ALL MAKES OF VEHICLE

**FREE COLLECTION AND*
*DELIVERY SERVICE**

TEL: 01279 647777 FAX 01279 817622



New Village Club

I have written about the demise of Clubs and Organisations within our village. It is great to mention the birth of a NEW, monthly initiative.

I refer to the "9am Women's Wellness Breakfast Club". Held in the "Elsenham Bowls and Social Club," they offer a free breakfast, tea/coffee and a safe, non- judgemental environment for women of all backgrounds to come together.

What happens at these meetings? Ladies arrive at 9.30 and are welcomed, at 9.35 they enjoy a FREE breakfast. At 10.00 there is a brief wellness focus (e.g. wellness activity), discussion topic. 10.45 Free time to chat with friendship at its core. 11.00 Close.

Everything is optional and guests are welcome to just sit, eat and relax.

It is held on the last Friday of each month (excluding December). The Organiser is Fiona Gardiner a qualified wellness & beauty professional (and our new Parish Council secretary!).



Ray *Franklin*

www.ellabellabeauty.co.uk

Ella Bella BEAUTY

Nails

Builder Gel - Builder Gel
Extensions - Gel Polish

Facial Treatments

Dermaplaning - Microneedling -
Chemical Peels - Hydro-Gen -
Led Light Therapy etc...
(Facials can be customised to
your needs)

20% OFF

Introductory
Your First Treatment
Limited Time

Hall Close Henham, CM22 6AU

Tel: 07525 475954

Insta:ellabellabeautyuk



CAMWOOD
HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Kitchens • Bathrooms

Electrics • Conversions

Fully Qualified Experienced Tradesmen

All other aspects of building

Get in touch today for a free estimate

Office: 01279 814296 Mobile: 07714 300920

Email: camwoodhome@outlook.com

www.camwoodhome.co.uk



camwoodhome



TouchPoint Kids Christmas Gifts Appeal 2025 launches

We are delighted to launch TouchPoint Kids Christmas Gifts Appeal 2025.

This will be our third annual Christmas Appeal. **Our 2024 Appeal was hugely successful.** Thanks to generous donations from the public and local companies and organisations, we were able to support **over 800 local children and families** by distributing gift vouchers worth £25 each.

Many local families can struggle to afford the extra expense of Christmas. Working closely with partners including local schools, Mind in West Essex and Uttlesford Foodbank, we estimate that there are **more than 3,000 children** in our area for whom this appeal would make a huge difference. For parents and carers, it can ease some of the stress and anxiety than can come with the festive season when you are struggling to pay your bills.

****Our ambitious fundraising target for 2025 is £15,000****

Last year we exceeded our target, and we would love to do the same again! The TouchPoint Kids Christmas Gifts Appeal is encouraging the local community to unite and make a difference.

Two ways you can get involved

- Donate via our Just Giving campaign at justgiving.com/campaign/touchpoint-xmas-2025
- Volunteer your time - email volunteer@thetouchpoint.org to find out more

"I felt happy when the school gave me my voucher. I bought a big pack of fidget toys. I use them all the time. Getting my voucher meant that my mum didn't have to save as much money as normal, we don't have a lot of money". (Child aged 9)



ST MARY'S CHURCH ELSENHAM

Office@heuchurch.co.uk

Thought For The Month *by Pete Tibbott*

One of the things that signal "Christmas is coming" for my children is when Daddy puts the Christmas lights on the front of our house. Our lights have ten (!) settings, from a basic 'always-on' mode, through to 'psychedelic-lightshow'. You can imagine which mode the kids enjoy most...

Lights are not only necessary at this time of year, but they also bring joy. Whether it's the twinkling of the Christmas tree, the car headlights of a loved-one turning into the driveway, or an advent candle at the centre of the dinner table. Light makes us feel joyful.

In contrast, the darkness of winter can feel all-consuming. It's dark outside and that can make us feel isolated. Christmas-time sometimes brings back painful memories. We long for the sun to warm things up again and lower our energy bills.

One hymn writer captures the theme of darkness in his first line, based on Isaiah 60:2 - "Darkness like a shroud covers the earth." It can certainly feel like a shroud, physically and emotionally. But thankfully, the hymn continues - "Arise, shine, your light has come."

This is the good news that Christians hold out in a 'dark' world, that God does not call us to stumble through life blindly but to see that the 'light' has come, the true light that brings ultimate joy. Here's what Jesus said about himself in the Bible:

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

What makes these words even more astounding is that Jesus spoke them directly to the Pharisees, the group of religious leaders who would eventually call for his death. Jesus is telling all those whose hearts are shrouded in darkness that he is the light of the world. He himself is the ultimate joy-giver. So then, the one who follows Christ, who believes and trusts in him, does not stumble through life blindly but has the ultimate joy of knowing where they are travelling to.

Ernest Hemingway's 'The Old Man and the Sea' tells the tale of an old man who is dragged around the Gulf Stream by an enormous fish he is determined to catch. When the fish is finally caught after days of struggle, the man finds himself in the middle of the ocean having lost all his bearings. It's not until night falls that he can see the lights of Havana which prove to guide his way home. After fending off multiple shark attacks, it was the light that guided him back: "he knew where he was now and it was nothing to get home."

Whatever darkness you find yourself in, Jesus proves himself to be "the light of the world." The one who gives ultimate joy, life, peace and hope. The one who can bring us 'home' to the God who made us, if we would follow him.

If you'd like to find out more, why not come to one of the HEU Church carol services? We'd love to see you there as we hear more about "the light of the world."

CHURCH EVENTS IN OUR VILLAGES DECEMBER 2025

Church Services

Sunday 7th December

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

17:00 Christmas Tree Festival Closing
Service

18:00 Sunday@6, Henham Church

Sunday 14th December

10:00 Morning Service, Ugley Church

10:30 Morning Praise Service,
Henham Church

18:00 Sunday@6, Henham Church

19:00 Carols by Candlelight, Elsenham

Saturday 20th December

17:00 Carols around the Tree,
outside OSCA, Henham

Sunday 21st December

08:45 Prayer Book Holy Communion,
Elsenham Church

10:30 Family Carols,
Elsenham Village Hall

16:00 Carols by Candlelight, Ugley

Christmas Eve

17:00 Village Carols, Elsenham
Memorial Garden

18:00 Carols by Candlelight, Henham

Christmas Day

09:30 Family Service,
Elsenham Church

10:00 Christmas Holy Communion,
Ugley Church

10:30 Family Service, Henham Church

Sunday 28th December

10:30 Joint Benefice Service,
Ugley Church

Events

**Ladies' Pudding Evening, Thurs 4th
Dec, 7:30 for 8pm Henham Church**
Desserts, fizz, Christmas quiz, carol
singing and a chance to hear about that
first Christmas. Book via the Office.

Christmas Tree Festival

Sat 6 Dec - Sun 7 Dec 10:30-17:00,
Elsenham Church

Other Regular Events

SUNDAYS:

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

(Y1-Y6) Leave from Service to meet
in the New Church Hall, Henham
Church 10.15am

Sundays: 14th

Pathfinders (Y6-Y9)

Henham Church 6.00pm - leave from
Service to meet in the New Church
Hall, Henham Church

Sundays: 7th & 14th

Crammin' (Y10-Y13)

Henham Church 6.00pm leave from
Service to meet in the New Church
Hall, Henham Church

Sundays: 7th & 14th

MID-WEEK AND SATURDAY:

Start the Week with Prayer

Old Frank's, Elsenham 9.30am

Mondays: 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd

Seekers After School Bible Club

(Y3-Y4) Old Frank's 3.20pm

Mondays: 1st & 8th

Christian Play (Y1-Y2)

Rowan House, Elsenham 3.15pm

Tuesdays: 2nd

Little Fishes Pre-School Group

New Church Hall, Henham Church
9.15am.

Thursday: 4th & 11th

Little Fishes Pre-School Group

Elsenham Memorial Hall 10.00am

Fridays: 5th, 12th & 19th

Church Lunch Club

Elsenham Memorial Hall 12.30pm

Fridays: (2nd Friday of the month): 12th

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

WE PUT THE HOT IN YOUR WATER & THE HEAT IN YOUR HOME

- Central Heating, Boiler replacement
- Boiler servicing & Repairs
- General Plumbing



Call Mark - 07908005478

Email - nelsonplumbingheatingltd@gmail.com

Nelson & Sons Plumbing
& Heating LTD



01279 871 777 - 0800 587 2556

6 Newman Road, Little Canfield, Dunmow, Essex, CM6 1GR

MEDIACOMS

Aerial Satellite AV Security

- Aerial Installations
- CCTV & Security Alarms
- Audio Visual Installations
- Wireless & Wired Networks
- Solar Panel Installations
- Sky Installations & Subscriptions
- Freesat Installations & Receivers
- Multiroom Music & TV Distribution
- TV Wall Mounting Services
- Family Run Business



www.mediacoms.co.uk

info@mediacoms.co.uk

CHURCH EVENTS IN OUR VILLAGES JANUARY 2026

Church Services

Sunday 4th January

10:30 All Together All Age Service,
Elsenham Village Hall

Sunday 11th January

08:45 Prayer Book Holy Communion,
Elsenham Church

10:00 Morning Service, Ugley Church

10:30 Morning Praise Service,
Henham Church

18:00 Sunday@6, Henham Church

Sunday 18th January

08:45 Prayer Book Morning Prayer,
Elsenham Church

10:00 Holy Communion,
Ugley Church

10:30 Morning Praise Service
Elsenham Village Hall

18:00 Sunday@6 Communion,
Henham Church

Sunday 25th January

08:45 Prayer Book Morning Prayer,
Elsenham Church

10:00 Morning Service,
Ugley Church

10:30 Morning Praise
Holy Communion Service,
Henham Church

18:00 Sunday@6, Henham Church

SUNDAYS:

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

**(Y1-Y6) Leave the Morning Praise
Service, 10.30am**

Sundays: 11th, 18th & 25th

Pathfinders (Y6-Y9)

**Henham Church 6.00pm - leave from
service to meet in the New Church
Hall, Henham Church.**

Sundays: 11th, 18th & 25th

Crammin' (Y10-Y13)

**Henham Church 6.00pm – leave from
service to meet in the New Church
Hall, Henham Church.**

Sundays: 11th, 18th & 25th

MID-WEEK AND SATURDAY:

Start the Week with Prayer

Old Frank's, Elsenham, 9.30am

Mondays: 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th

Seekers After School Bible Club

(Y3-Y4) Old Frank's 3.20pm

Mondays: 12th, 19th & 26th

Christian Play (Y1-Y2)

Rowan House, Elsenham 3.15pm

Tuesdays: 13th, 20th & 27th

Little Fishes Pre-School Group

**New Church Hall, Henham Church
9.15am;**

Thursday: 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th

Little Fishes Pre-School Group

Elsenham Memorial Hall 10.00am

Fridays: 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th

Church Lunch Club

Elsenham Memorial Hall 12.30pm

Fridays: (2nd & 4th Friday of the month):
9th & 23rd

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



DECORATING SERVICES ALL ASPECTS OF DIY

NO JOB TOO SMALL

**For a friendly reliable service
Just Ask.....**

GARY KING

Home : 01279 850001

Mobile : 07951 452602

g.king962@btinternet.com

E. N.C. Electrical Limited

Industrial Agricultural Domestic

Electrical Installations

Fire Alarms/Emergency Lighting

Fault Finding

Portable Appliance Testing

Fixed Wiring Test & Inspection

**Over 25 Years Experience in the
Electrical Industry**

Contact: Ian Arran

**Tel. 01279 647042
Mobile 07776 252994**



**Email: encelectri-
calltd@btinternet.com**

44 Alsa Gardens Elsenham

Bishop's Stortford Herts, CM22 6HB

COOK UPHOLSTERY

www.taylorandcookltd.co.uk

Don't Replace It ... Re-cover It !



Any Item Reupholstered

**Sofas • Armchairs • Headboards • Divans •
Kitchen Chairs • Ottomans**

Wall Padding

**Create a beautiful feature wall in your lounge or
bedroom • Large Choice of fabrics and designs**

Call Gary on 07787 518022

Email: garycook99@btinternet.com

Text or email a picture for an immediate quote

JLT ROOFING

0 7 9 7 4 9 5 3 1 6 2

All roofing works undertaken, including :

- *Slatting**
- *Asphalt**
- *Tiling**
- *Flat Roofing**
- *Leadwork**
- *Fascia and Soffit**
- *Guttering**

***All works fully guaranteed ***

PROFESSIONAL RELIABLE AFFORDABLE

**Please contact for a free no obligation
quote:**

07974953162 info@jltroofing.co.uk



As you will have noticed – at least I *hope* you will have noticed - our Christmas Tree Festival in St. Mary's Church is almost upon us. It is being held over the weekend of **6th and 7th December** with the Church open each of the days from **10.30 am to 5.00 pm**. Entry is free and there will be refreshments available.

For those of you new to the village you might wonder “what is the Fabric Fund?”. Quite simply it is an organization that works to help support our early Norman Church. After all, when you are over 900 years old you need a little care and attention. To accomplish this we invite membership and also run fund-raising events through the year. And we try to put the “fun” into fund-raising!

Over the years we have organized many events, including a Medieval Day, a Flower Festival, concerts, art exhibitions, lectures, a display of wedding dresses, photography, barbecues, “bat” evenings, wine tasting, the recent antiques display and many more, leading up to the highlight of the year – the Christmas Tree festival; founded in 2009 and going from strength to strength! A spectacular display of Christmas trees, decorated by local residents and companies, covering everything from business to personal reflection.

Membership of the Fabric Fund costs a nominal amount - £5 a year, although we always appreciate more. Don't worry about being tasked with jobs. Although we always appreciate help, it is most definitely not a condition of membership.

And what do we do with the monies we raise? Many things over the years, including repairing the masonry around the West window, fitting a lightning conductor, helping to fund repairs to the wall around the church, cleaning the windows and the ironwork of the windows, and helping fund the inevitable ongoing repairs identified in the regular church inspections. Our most recent contribution was a large part of the cost of the new path between the church and the new church rooms which give us toilets, kitchen facilities and meeting space.

So, as you can see, your participation in our events is valuable to the continued existence of your church, and we look forward to seeing you at our festival, either as a visitor, a contributor or a helper – or even all three!

The committee of St Mary's Fabric Fund wish you peace, joy and happiness at Christmas, and all best wishes for 2026.





Make all the difference.

Help young people
in Henham and Elsenham step up
and dream big.

scouts.org.uk/Volunteer
#SkillsForLife



Scouts

1st Henham and Elsenham

Copyright © 2023 Scouts Registered Charity number: 3085202030 Ltd

U3A STANSTED

Registered Charity Number 1148073

✉ stanstedu3a@gmail.com

By Julia Cook



Whether we consider it the close of one year or the beginning of another, these darker winter days often encourage us both to reflect and to look ahead. At Stansted Mountfitchet u3a, we can look back with pride on a year of growth – welcoming new members and launching new activities – and forward with enthusiasm to what 2026 will bring.



Our interest groups now number 39, offering something for just about everyone. Over the past year we have added a third Pilates class to meet demand, introduced Lawn Bowling for the summer months (alongside ongoing Indoor Bowling during winter), and established new groups for Canasta, Music Appreciation, and Understanding IT. Most recently, we have welcomed Recorder Playing and Embroidery, both of which have been met with real enthusiasm. It is heartening to see members trying new things, rediscovering past skills, and sharing knowledge with others.

December is always a sociable month for us. Our Christmas Tea Party is now a firm favourite: Committee members don aprons to serve tea (not always expertly, but always cheerfully!), the Strummers provide musical entertainment, and our themed quiz ensures plenty of laughter. This is followed shortly afterwards by our Christmas Lunch at Bury Lodge, held in the beautifully atmospheric historic barn – another much-loved tradition that brings our year to a close in good company.

Looking ahead, our first monthly meeting of 2026 will take place on Thursday 16th January. We are pleased to welcome Dr Kevin Bryant, King's Fellow in Bioscience Education, who will speak on *"Epidemic of Uncertainty – Rumours, Conspiracy Theories and Vaccine Hesitancy"*, offering a thought-provoking perspective on public responses to COVID and the development of the AstraZeneca vaccine.



We meet at St Theresa's Centre, High Lane, doors open at 1.30pm for a 2.00pm start.

Visitors are always warmly welcomed.



T.J. Patmore
Building Services

Extensions – Loft Conversions
Roof work – Carpentry – Roof Tiling
First and second fix carpentry
Kitchen fitting
Built in wardrobes
Decorating interior and exterior
Floor and wall tiling
Fencing – Decking – Patios
Supply and fix u.p.v.c. windows
House maintenance

*Call Trevor for friendly help, advice
and FREE estimates*

mob 07932 666224



**Advertise your business
in Elsenham News**
Contact us at

elsenhamnews@hotmail.co.uk



Pike's Plumbing & Heating

Whether you're looking for a plumber or heating engineer, Pike's Plumbing & Heating can help.

If it's an emergency, simple problem or you're just thinking about a new boiler or bathroom give me a call – I'm available when you need me 24/7. Now's a good time to think about servicing your boiler too and make sure you're not left out in the cold! No Call-Out Charges & Free Quotations

Tel: 07889 140035

Email: info@pikesph.co.uk

Web: www.pikesph.co.uk

Craig Pike



As winter approaches, many households are understandably concerned about rising energy costs. Ofgem has confirmed that from 1 October to 31 December 2025, the energy price cap will increase by around 2%.

If you're on a variable-rate plan, you could be overpaying, in some cases, switching providers could save an average of £200 a year. The current guidance is to switch and fix your tariff, so it's a good idea to check your deal and compare options. Even a small change can make a real difference.

If you're worried about heating costs or managing energy debt, Uttlesford Citizens Advice is here to help.

Our advisers can:

- ✓ Explain what help is available with energy or fuel costs
- ✓ Provide tips on energy efficiency and grants
- ✓ Offer advice on benefits, budgeting, and housing
- ✓ Point you to local warm spaces and community help

You don't have to face rising costs alone. Free, confidential advice for all Uttlesford residents. Contact details are above.

THE *Harmonaires* CHOIR



The Harmonaires Choir is back at St John's Church in Stansted on Saturday 13 December at 4.30pm for a Christmas concert featuring music by Rutter, Park and Todd together with all your seasonal favourites. It will also include well-loved carols for the audience to sing along to.

Tickets are £5 for adults, children free. They can be bought online at www.theharmonaireschoir.com or on the door.

There will be a retiring collection for **CRISIS**, particularly known for their *Crisis at Christmas* campaign but also a charity committed to helping people out of homelessness all year round. Your generous contributions will help provide vital services and support for those in need.

JOHN COLEBY

Experienced Interior and Exterior Decorator

For a friendly, reliable service please telephone
01279 815510 or 0793 9070818
for a free estimate

*The new home of Elsenham
News. Simply put your mobile
phone camera over this QR
code and follow the link.*



Double Glazed Units – SAME DAY

- Table Tops
- Shelves
- Emergency Glazing
- Replacement Misted Double Glazing
- Greenhouse Glass
- Cat and Dog Flaps Fitted
- Splash Backs – Any Colour
- Glass Cut To Size
- Emergency Boarding
- Safety Glass
- Mirrors

**LOCAL COMPANY – GREAT PRICES – RELIABLE
PROMPT SERVICE**

Elsenham – Great Dunmow – Bishops Stortford - Stansted



THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

By Ken McDonald, Secretary

✉ www.hundredparishes.org.uk



The Hundred Parishes Society is not a church or religious organisation but we encourage visits to churches because they are often the oldest and most interesting building in any community. Most of our churches are open regularly and welcome visitors.

Our website www.hundredparishes.org.uk has many short articles, including some about various aspects of churches including bells, clocks, memorials, poppyheads, spires, towers and windows. We recently added an article about church fonts, some of which appears in the next few paragraphs.

Fonts hold holy water which is used to 'baptise' people, an initiation into the Christian faith. They are often situated near the church entrance. Our local churches have a great variety of fonts, usually made of stone.

St. George's church in Anstey has an 11th-century font that is rare in that it is decorated with mermen (the male equivalent of mythical mermaids) holding their tails.

Thorley church has a 12th-century font. It was removed from the church and for many years was used as a drinking trough on a nearby farm before being reintroduced into the church in 1855. Its ornate cover was designed by George Gilbert Scott, a prolific architect known mainly for his work designing and renovating churches and cathedrals.

Chickney church has a carved stone font from the 14th century. The bowl is lavishly decorated including shields bearing the coats of arms of local Braybrook and Fitzwalter families.

Debden's 18th-century font (pictured) is made of Coade stone and is richly decorated with roses and heraldry.



Over the last couple of years, I have been giving a talk entitled "A peek inside some Hundred Parishes churches" to local groups. The talk is a PowerPoint presentation with many photos. If your group might be interested, please contact me on hundredparishes@btinternet.com

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.

Taylor Computer Services (Stansted)

On-site Computer Maintenance/Repairs

DON'T BE RESTRICTED TO OFFICE HOURS, I CAN VISIT YOUR HOME OR OFFICE DURING THE DAY, EVENINGS OR WEEKENDS AT A TIME TO SUIT YOU.

Email and Broadband Setup, Data Transfers/Data Recovery, Hardware & Software Installation, Virus & Spyware Removal & Protection, New PC Setup & Training

Call Derrick on 01279 816418 ~ 07926 289749
Email: Info@tcsstansted.co.uk



SDS Installations Ltd

AERIAL AND SATELLITE SERVICES
FOREIGN SATELLITE SYSTEMS - CCTV - EXTRA TV POINTS - SKY LINK UPS
PHONE POINTS - HOME SIGNAL DISTRIBUTION - WALL MOUNTED PLASMA/
LCD SCREENS - CABLES SUPPLIED AND HIDDEN

Alan Smith
50 Sunnyside
Stansted
Essex CM24 8AX

01279 279012
07771 881042
sdsinstallations@hotmail.com
sdsinstallations.com

Essex Autospray

Your local Collision Repair Centre - Est 1982

- Free Courtesy Cars
- Free Estimates
- Low Bake Ovens
- Blackhawk Alignment



Tel: 01279 816296 E: info@essexautospray.co.uk

www.essexautospray.com

M11 Business Link, Parsonage Lane,

NEWPORT & DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

By Sandra Honour ✉ sandra@thewesleys.net



Autumn has arrived along with the darker evenings but beautiful mellow sunshine and a gloriously coloured landscape. Our flower club will have finished the year with the Christmas demonstration that took place in November and we follow with a break until February 2026.

October, however, saw our club member and NAFAS demonstrator Lorraine Gagen tutor us in the creation of a floral topiary design. This workshop was enjoyed by many club members who produced their own designs - every one different!



Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 18th February 2026 when we welcome back the wonderful Gill McGregor, an international demonstrator, teacher and author. A great start to the year! Please come and join us – you will be made very welcome. In the meantime, Newport and District Flower Club send you the best of wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

We meet at 7pm for 7.30pm start – on the third Wednesday of the month, Ugley Village Hall, Cambridge Road, CM22 6HR.

STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

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



Well the England Women cricketers reached the semi final of the World Cup in India. They were knocked out by South Africa who they had defeated by 10 wickets earlier in the competition! Funny old game as they say.

The men's team now travel to Australia for the Ashes Series. The five test matches began in Perth on November 21 and we do have a chance of bringing the urn back home. It should be a really exciting series and one that will enhance the enthusiasm for cricket in this country.

The club continues to be busy during the winter months, arranging nets, fixtures for next season, accounts for AGMs and all of those little things that make the club turnover smoothly.

Our General Knowledge quiz will be held on January 31 2026 and indoor nets for both seniors and juniors will begin on February 19. If you are interested in joining our club please contact me as above.

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and a very healthy New Year.

DREAM, EXPLORE, Discover

OFFER
10% OFF

YOUR NEXT BOOKING
USING THIS ADVERT.

YOUR LOCAL *Personal Travel Consultant*

We can look after all your travel requirements including hotels, flights, package holidays, villas, cruises, car hire and much more.

*Subject to availability. Only available on selected deals. Please mention advert when requesting a quote.



Carla Jayne at Hays Travel



cj_haystravel

01279 886731 | 07590 804702 | carla.jayne@hays-travel.co.uk
haystravel.co.uk/personal-travel-consultants/carla-jayne



Hays Travel

CLEAR OVENS

Oven Cleaning Specialists

01279 89 89 96

we accept cards!

Make your oven look showroom fresh with a professional clean from **Clear Ovens**. Our fully insured expert technicians will make it shine like new.



Instagram



The Association of
Approved Oven Cleaners



MEMBER OF THE FEDERATION
OF SMALL BUSINESSES


Covering Sawbridgeworth, Harlow, Epping, Great Dunmow, Braintree, Stansted, Bishop's Stortford and surrounding areas.



01279 89 89 96 or visit us online at
www.clearovens.co.uk

The difference is clear

ELSENHAM BOWLS AND SOCIAL CLUB


 www.elsenhambc.org.uk

By David Thomas



Thank you to everyone who has made 2025 such a successful year for Elsenham Bowls & Social Club. Looking back to everything that we have achieved it has been quite a year. From the social events that we have hosted through to the successes our bowlers have had on the green, both at home and at other club greens across the county. Our success has only been possible because of all the volunteers that keep the club running. From cutting the grass and spiking the green or supporting the maintenance on a Wednesday morning or simply moving the tables and chairs ready for the next event every person's contribution is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

For all social and bowling members our Christmas Dinner and Dance is on December 13 with music from Around Midnight. Please make sure you book your place and your selection from the menu for the evening. We are looking forward to our annual Christmas celebration.

Looking to the New Year, our first music evening for 2026 is on January 10 with music from Adam Curto. There is also our Valentine's music evening coming up with a tribute to Whitney Houston performed by Nicky Fisher to look forward to. Tickets are available now at £8 for members and £13 for non-members. Ticket availability is limited so please call Trevor on  07445 437437 to secure yours.

As always, our Friday social evening continues throughout the year, pop along from 7pm. There is also short mat on a Monday afternoon which is getting very competitive plus crib and darts during the week. Bingo sessions are at 7:00 for 7:30 on 20 December plus 3, 17 and 31 January.

If you are free on Christmas Eve and/or New Year's Eve the club bar will be open from 7pm and we will be pleased to see you.

It just then leaves me to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Whatever your plans are over the holiday season, if you are spending time with family and friends, having a Christian celebration of Christ's birth or a mid-winter festival, I hope your time is a peaceful one and I look forward to seeing you at the club in 2026.

GARDEN HINT *By Sue Johnson*

Plan your crops – go through your seed packets and catalogues, then start planning next year's crops. Be mindful that old seed may have a low viability, so buy fresh if necessary.

D BONNEY & SONS MANUDEN MOTOR VEHICLE ENGINEERS

MOT TESTING

ALL MAKES OF VEHICLES SERVICED INCLUDING FOUR WHEEL
DRIVES

TRW BRAKE CENTRE

DIAGNOSTIC AND FAULT FINDING

WELDING AND CHASSIS REPAIRS

SELECTION OF USED CARS

CALOR GAS STOCKIST

WE HELP YOU THE MOTORIST WITH A CHEAPER LABOUR RATE

GUARANTEED WORKMANSHIP

FREE COLLECTION AND DELIVERY IN LOCAL AREA

PLEASE RING: MALC, NEIL OR CRAIG

 **01279 813315** OR  **01279 815946**

YOUNG'S

WINDOW CLEANING SERVICE

We specialise in residential properties offering a quality
and regular service for exterior and interior cleans
Serving the Elsenham community for the last 10 years

Call or text Malcolm for a FREE quote
07817 481901

ELSENHAM FLOWER SHOW SOCIETY

✉ suewaite2003@yahoo.co.uk or
✉ lynda.jolly@btinternet.com



EFSS 2026 AGM FRIDAY 16TH JANUARY
Elsenham Memorial Hall 7.30pm

The EFSS committee would like to invite the people of Elsenham to join us at our AGM followed by a Cheese and Wine Evening. It would be lovely to see you all and to thank you for all the support you gave us at the events in 2025.

These are the dates for 2026:

PLANT SALE 16 May
OPEN GARDENS 28 June
FLOWER SHOW 15 August

Looking forward to seeing you all on Friday 16 January.

We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year from the EFSS committee: Chris, Sue, Doug, Lynda J, Brian and Lynda B

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Burial of Ashes:

- On 20 November 2025 in Henham Churchyard, Stella Joy Mortimer

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

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

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



Advertise your business
in **Elsenham News**

Contact us at

elsenhamsnews@hotmail.co.uk

(See inside back cover for details
on rates.)

*A very merry Christmas and a healthy and
prosperous new year to all our advertisers and
supporters.*

We hope you all have a superb 2026!

Editorial Team, Elsenham News

There will be no Elsenham News in January.
Our next issue will be February.



DANIEL ROBINSON & SONS

Independent Family Funeral Directors & Monumental Masons

Est 1892

Always here when you need us...

- Arrangements in the comfort of your own home, if preferred
- Private Chapel of Rest
- Pre-paid funeral planning services
- Traditional & contemporary funerals to suit your wishes



**79/81 South Street
BISHOP'S STORTFORD
01279 655477**

www.drobinson.co.uk

THE SAFEKEEP BY Yael van der Wouden

Reviewed by Marion Giles for Elsenham Book Group



"It is fifteen years after the second World War, and Isabel has built herself a solitary life of discipline and strict routine in her late mother's country home, with not a fork or a word out of place. But all is upended when her brother Louis delivers his graceless new girlfriend, Eva, at Isabel's doorstep - as a guest, there to stay for the season... In the sweltering heat of summer, Isabel's desperate need for control reaches boiling point. What happens between the two women leads to a revelation which threatens to unravel all she has ever known." So says the blurb on the back of the book.

This was the choice of the book group this month.

The Amazon AI summarises: Customers find this book remarkable and beautifully written, with a richly layered narrative that moves them emotionally and keeps them engaged. The writing style is poetic, and the story is thought-provoking, with one customer noting how it explores deeper themes of love. While the characters are well-rounded, some customers find them unlikeable.

Set in the Netherlands, we meet Isabel, who still lives in her family home after the death of her mother. The house was provided by uncle Karrel. Isabel's brothers, Louis and Hendrick have long since left home. Hendrick is gay, which caused a rift between him and his mother. Louis quickly tires of girlfriends and moves from one to another with rapidity, however, the house has been promised to Louis, by uncle Karrel, when he eventually settles down to start a family. Isabel is isolated, lonely and worried about what will happen to her. She is naturally hostile to Louis's latest girlfriend, Eva, and is angry and upset when he agrees that Eva should stay with Isabel when he has to go away on business.

Part one depicts how Isabel spends her day in strict routine, monitoring the maid, Neelke, and counting possessions over and over. The only pleasure is in her garden which she tends with care. Isabel is brittle, dismissive and uptight.

Part two deals with the relationship between Isabel and Eva. Isabel is almost incandescent with anger when Eva decides to sleep in Isabel's mother's room, which has been kept as it was. The anger between them develops into a passion and desire that Isabel never expected. The hatred turns to love, almost obsession. As this is reciprocated, Isabel and Eva develop a sexual relationship that consumes them. It is explicit so take care if listening to an audio book in Tesco! Then Isabel realises Eva is stealing her things and instructs her to leave.

Part three is mainly experienced through Eva's diary, where we learn of her past, what being Jewish meant and her connection to the house. This was perhaps the most interesting part of the book, that also sheds light on the plight of the Jews in Holland after the war. The book moves to a satisfying, if inevitable, conclusion.



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 2026; 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 31 January 2026.

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 2026: -

31st JANUARY
28th FEBRUARY
28th MARCH
25th APRIL
30th MAY
27th JUNE

We will have many of our fabulous regular sellers offering delicious sourdough bread, preserves, chutneys and oils, local meat, the most amazing barista coffee, moreish cakes and macarons and even your dog is catered for with 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 and personal hygiene products, indoor and outdoor plants, 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

Elsenham Farmers Market Team

COOKERY CORNER

By Sue Johnson ☎ 812704



Here's a recipe suggestion to help use up leftover cooked turkey meat. Makes a delicious family brunch alongside any kind of eggs, fried, poached or scrambled - or served for supper with mash and lashings of gravy.

TURKEYCAKES (serves 4-6)

400g roast turkey, diced small
50g breadcrumbs
Handful of parsley, leaves finely chopped
2 tablespoons soft thyme leaves, finely chopped
Grating or two of nutmeg (optional)
1 clove of garlic, finely chopped
1 large egg, lightly beaten
Plain flour for dusting
2-4 tablespoons sunflower or rapeseed oil for frying
Salt and freshly ground pepper

Put the diced turkey into a large bowl with the breadcrumbs, herbs, nutmeg (if using) and garlic, together with lots of pepper and a pinch of salt. Mix thoroughly together adding the egg to bind mixture together.

Divide mixture into 8-10 pieces and form flat "cakes". Put on a plate, cover and place in the fridge for at least 30 minutes (longer is fine).

Remove the "cakes" from fridge and dust them all over with the flour. Heat 2 tablespoons of oil in a large heavy-based, non-stick frying pan over a medium heat.

Cook in batches for 4-5 minutes per side or until golden and hot right through. Remove from pan, drain on kitchen paper and keep warm until all are fried, adding more oil to the pan if needed. Serve hot.

CHEF'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

Swap roasted pork for turkey, adding a little chopped sage to the other herbs and moisten the mixture with apple sauce if you have some, as well as the beaten egg.

Add a spoonful or two of cranberry sauce or some spicy chutney to the mixture to give some extra flavour.

ENJOY COOKING THIS CHRISTMAS WHATEVER YOU DO!

Editorial Information

Articles

The **last day** for editors to receive articles, advertising and letters, which must contain the author's name and address (which may be withheld), is the 12th of each month.

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

Copy submitted after the 12th may not be accepted but will, if deemed appropriate, be held over to the next month. We are happy to receive hand written articles which ideally should reach us earlier than the 12th to allow for scanning etc.

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

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

General Notes

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

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

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

The editors' decision is final.

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

Subscriptions

Elsenham News is available online on the ECA Website. Contact
elsenhamnews@hotmail.co.uk

Advertising

The costs are as follows:

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

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

To place an advertisement:

If you have any queries, please email us. Please send your advert as Word or Publisher via email to:
elsenhamnews@hotmail.co.uk

Advertising Editor: TBA

Business Advertising

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

Editorial Team:

**Gary Williams
Emma Bailey
Marion Giles
Patricia Davis
Anne White
Angie Wenlock**

Previous issues of Elsenham News are available on the ECA Website

www.ElsenhamCommunityAssociation.org.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bowls and Social Club Valentines music evening - 14th February

VILLAGE CONTACTS

Airport Roadside Parking		0800 731 2385
Beavers	1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com	
Bowls Club	Therese Clear	07759 158859
Brownies	elsenhambrownies@gmail.com	
Church Office (Old Frank's, High St, Elsenham)	Anna Hicks	814285
County Councillor (Stansted)	Ray Gooding	813103
Cricket Club	David Brown	831011
Cub Scouts	1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com	
ECA (Chair)	Sue Waite	07956 899326
ECA (Secretary)	Chris Richardson	07940 465627
ECA Website	www.ElsenhamCommunityAssociation.org.uk	
Elsenham Eagles	elsenham.action@btinternet.com	
Elsenham Farmers Market	elsenhamfarmersmarket@gmail.com	
Elsenham Surgery	www.elsenhamsurgery.nhs.uk	814730
Elsenham C of E Primary School	Linda Todd Headteacher	813198
Elsenham Church PCC Secretary	David Hill	812397
Elsenham Rights of Way website	www.e-voice.org.uk/erowos/	
Friends of Elsenham School (FOES)	Louise Judd	foespta@hotmail.com
Henham & District Garden Society	Moyra Jackson	647351
History Society	Mike Rea	evhs12@hotmail.co.uk 813634
Member of Parliament	Kemi Badenoch	0207 219 5214
Memorial Hall Bookings		
www.elsenhamcommunityassociation.org.uk/hiring-elsenham-memorial-hall		
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator	Frances Lambert	07771 728332
	franceslambertnhw@btinternet.com	
Parish Clerk - Fiona Gardiner	clerk.elsenhampc@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 £29.95 PER PERSON!!
EMAIL FOR MORE DETAILS!!



**Golf
World
Stansted**

Golf World Stansted, Hall Road, Nr Stansted Airport CM22 6FL
bar@golfworldstansted.co.uk | 01279 812865



THERE'S SO MUCH TO DO AT GWS!

 **TOPTRACER RANGE**

**ADVENTURE GOLF,
FOOTGOLF, LESSONS,
GYM, EVENTS,
9-HOLES & MORE!**

NOW OPEN UNTIL MIDNIGHT FRIDAY'S & SATURDAY'S!




Visit us now: Golf World Stansted, Hall Road, Nr Stansted Airport CM22 6FL
01279 812 865 bar@golfworldstansted.co.uk



**Golf World Stansted Ltd
Hall Road
Elsenham
Nr Bishops Stortford
Essex
CM22 6FL**

file:///E:/Els/News/2025/Nov_25/golf-world-logo-white.svg

 **01279 812 865**