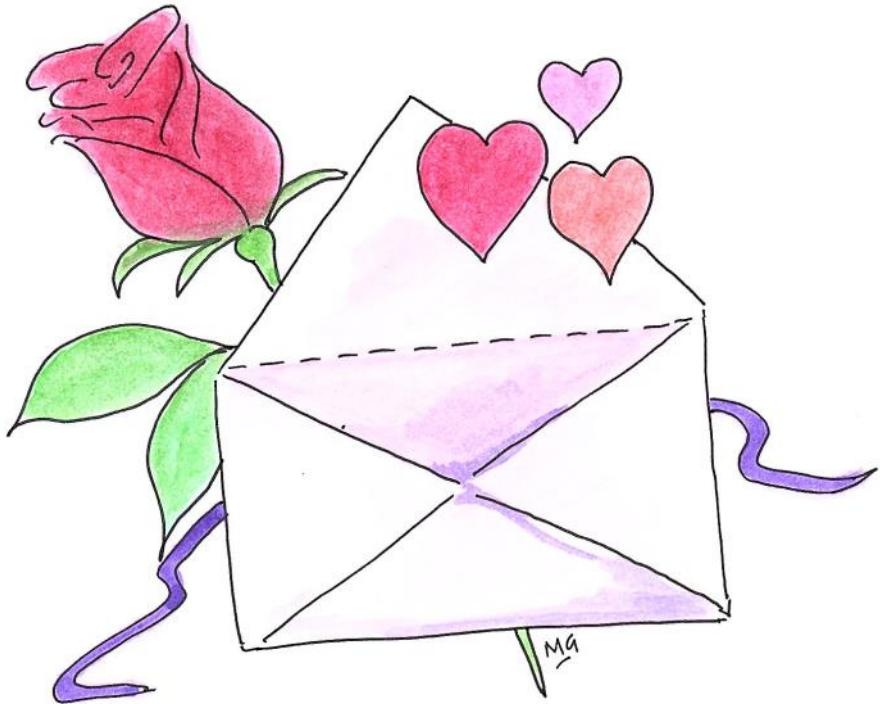


Elsenham News



*Happy Valentine's Day
14 February 2019*

elsenhamsnews@hotmail.co.uk

February 2019

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VILLAGE DIARY OF EVENTS

Regular Monthly or Quarterly Activities		
Activity	When	Location
Parish Council	1 st Monday of month 8pm (not Bank Holidays)	Memorial Hall
Elsenham WI	3 rd Thursday of month 7.45 - 10pm	Memorial Hall
Life Drawing	2 nd Tuesday of month 7.30 - 9.30 pm	Village Hall
Lunch Club	2 nd & 4 th Friday of month 12.15pm	Memorial Hall
History Society	Quarterly, Wednesday, 7.45pm	Memorial Hall
Henham & District Garden Society	1 st Tuesday of month 2.30pm (No meeting in May, August or December 2019)	Memorial Hall
Village Café	Afternoon tea: 1 st & 3 rd Thursday 2 - 4pm	Memorial Hall
	Coffee morning: 2 nd & 4 th Tuesday 9.30 - 11.30am	Bowls Club
Village Café Lunch	Last Monday of the month 12 - 2pm	Memorial Hall

DATES FOR FEBRUARY

Sat 2	Bingo	Bowls Club 7 for 7.30pm
Mon 4	Parish Council Meeting	Memorial Hall 8pm
Tues 5	Henham & District Garden Society	Memorial Hall 2 - 4.30pm
Weds 6	WI Natter Night	Bowls Club 7.30pm
Thurs 7 & 21	Village Café Afternoon Tea	Memorial Hall 2 - 4pm
Fri 8 & 22	Church Lunch Club	Memorial Hall 12.15pm
Tues 12 & 26	Village Café Coffee Morning	Bowls Club 9.30 - 11.30am
Tues 12	Life Drawing	Village Hall 7.30pm
Sat 16	Bingo	Bowls Club 7pm for 7.30pm
Thurs 21	Elsenham WI	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Mon 25	Village Café Lunch	Memorial Hall 12 - 2pm
Mon 25	District Councillor Surgery	Memorial Hall 12.30pm

DATES FOR MARCH

Sat 2	Bingo	Bowls Club 7 for 7.30pm
Mon 4	Parish Council Meeting	Memorial Hall 8pm
Tues 5	Henham & District Garden Society	Memorial Hall 2 - 4.30pm
Weds 6	WI Natter Night	Bowls Club 7.30pm
Thurs 7 & 21	Village Café Afternoon Tea	Memorial Hall 2 - 4pm
Fri 8 & 22	Church Lunch Club	Memorial Hall 12.15pm
Tues 12 & 26	Village Café Coffee Morning	Bowls Club 9.30 - 11.30am
Tues 12	Life Drawing	Village Hall 7.30pm
Weds 13	History Society Meeting	Memorial Hall 7.45 for 8pm
Thurs 14	ECA AGM	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Sat 16	Bowls and Social Club Quiz	Bowls Club 7.30 for 8pm
Thurs 21	Elsenham WI	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Mon 25	Village Café Lunch	Memorial Hall 12 - 2pm
Sat 30	Bingo	Bowls Club 7 for 7.30pm

The **Mobile Library** visits Elsenham every third **Thursday**
calling at Glebe End 11.50am - 12.20pm
Next visit dates: 21 February and 14 March



VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

elsenhamsnews@hotmail.co.uk



If any of the times are incorrect or if you would like your club added please email elsenhamnews@hotmail.co.uk.

Regular Weekly Activities

Day	Activity	Time	Location
Monday	Zumba Class	9.30 - 10.30am	Memorial Hall
	Health Walk	10.30am	Corner of De Mandeville
	Line Dance	6.05 - 7.15pm	Memorial Hall
	Guides	7 - 8.30pm	Village Hall (term-time)
	Bounce	7.30pm	Elsenham Golf Club
	Shape to the Beat **	7.30 - 8.30pm	Memorial Hall
Tuesday	Studs & Stars	10 - 11.30am	Memorial Hall
	Outdoor Play Session	11am - 3pm	Daisy May's Farm
	Nordic Walking	2 - 3.15pm	Top Car Park Playing Field
	Brownies	6 - 7.30pm	Memorial Hall (term-time)
	Tennis Club Night	8 - 10.30pm	Tennis Courts
	Yoga	8 - 9pm	Memorial Hall
Weds	Tots & Toddlers	9.30 - 11.30am	Memorial Hall (term-time)
	Petals Together music	1 - 3pm	Memorial Hall
	Slimming World	5.30 & 7.30pm	Memorial Hall
	Beaver Scouts	5.30 - 7pm	Village Hall (term-time)
	Bounce	7pm	Elsenham Golf Club
	Candlelit Yoga	7.45 - 9.15pm	Village Hall
Thursday	Slimming World	9.30 - 11am	Memorial Hall
	Rainbows	5.30 - 6.30pm	Memorial Hall (term-time)
	Cubs	6.30 - 7.45pm	Village Hall (term time)
	Bounce*	6.30pm	Elsenham Golf Club
	Step in Time Dance	8 - 9pm	Village Hall (term-time)
Friday	Tennis - Ladies	10 - 11.30am	Tennis Courts
	Little Fishes Pre-School	10 - 11am	Memorial Hall (term-time)
	Bowls Club Night	7 - 11pm	Bowls Club
Saturday	Bounce*	8.30am	Elsenham Golf Club
Saturday	Football	10 - 11.30am	Playing Field
Saturday	Open Farm	11am - 3pm	Daisy May's Farm
Sunday	Nordic Walking	10 - 12 Noon	Surgery Car Park

For Village Contacts see the inside back cover

* Child friendly sessions

** No Shape to the Beat when it is the monthly Parish Council meeting

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Elsenham Village Café

(formerly the Community Café)
Run for the community by the community



Coffee Morning at Elsenham Bowls Club 9.30 – 11.30 am

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

Tuesday 12 and 26 February

Afternoon Tea at the Memorial Hall 2 – 4 pm

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

Thursday 7 and 21 February

Community Lunch at the Memorial Hall 12 – 2 pm

Last Monday of each month
A two course Lunch

Monday 25 February

No charge but donations welcomed

Contact: Sue Waite ✉ suewaite2003@yahoo.co.uk
☎ 07956 899326



THE NEWS REPORT

From The Editors



Happy New Year!

Welcome to the first edition of Elsenham News for 2019, hope the year has got off to a flying start for you.

In this month's magazine there's the usual blend of updates, invitations to join in and reflections. If you're new to the magazine then you might find the list of Village Activities on p3 useful, also the handy telephone list in the inside back cover. And if there's anything you think is missing, please let us know by emailing us on elsenhamnews@hotmail.co.uk

Elsenham Community Association (ECA), the village organisation that makes possible this magazine, the Fete, Santa and the availability of the Memorial Hall, is holding its AGM. Every resident is a member and very welcome to come along. See p23 for details.

Fans of the Community Café will know it has a new name, **the Village Café**, but if you haven't yet been to one of their coffee mornings, afternoon teas or lunches, see p4 for all the dates.

We are delighted to have contributions from **U3A** (the university of the third age) in Stansted, see p39 and also from the **Scouts**, see p9. The Scouts are looking for volunteers so see if it's something you can help with. And if you've had a Christmas sort-out take a look at p17, there are some specific items requested for the lorryload of Aid to Romania.

We are also looking for **help with the magazine**, see the flyer enclosed. You don't need experience, we are happy to show you the ropes, just to have access to a PC and a bit of free time. Please get in touch if you'd like to find out more elsenhamnews@hotmail.co.uk.

Happy Valentine's Day. See you next month!

The Editors

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A MISSION FOR 2019 - SAVE OUR LIBRARIES!

Annie Gleeson, Elsenham Parish Council

Essex County Council is proposing to close up to half of the libraries in the county (44 out of 74 branches) including our nearest libraries in Stansted and Thaxted. You can help to keep this vital community service.

Libraries are safe, warm and welcoming spaces that promote community, literacy, and life-long learning. They offer so much more than “just” books! In the last year, **over 5 million visits** were made to Essex Libraries.

Essex County Council wants to reduce library provision to a small number of hubs. This is an inadequate solution for a rural area with poor transport links. Uttlesford district would be left with just two libraries in Dunmow and Saffron Walden. Unbelievably, this is to save **just 0.2%** of Essex County Council’s annual budget.

How can you help?

Most importantly, please fill in the official Essex County Council survey here: <https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/libraries-consultation/>. To request a print copy, or carry out the survey over the phone, call 0345 603 7639. You can also sign the local petition in support of Stansted Library: <https://www.change.org/p/susan-barker-essex-county-council-save-stansted-library>.

Pop into your local library branch or use the mobile library van on its next visit to the village, have a chat to the lovely staff, and then use your library card to borrow something, anything you like! When you get back home you could also use your library card to download audiobooks and ebooks!

If you haven’t used the library before, 2019 is a great time to join. It’s free! Here are just a few of the things going on:

- For babies and toddlers, Rhymetime sessions take place at all libraries. Libraries are also breastfeeding welcome spaces.
- If you’re researching your family history, setting up a new business, or looking for support with your homework, there are lots of reference sources and free online courses available with your library card.
- The Home Library Service supports those who can’t get to the library due to disability, age, or caring responsibilities.
- Memory Support cards are available for those with difficulty remembering to return due to mental health issues. No charges are incurred on this type of card.

For locations, opening times, and information about all of the above, see the Essex Libraries website: <https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/>.

GARDEN HINT

Wash out old plastic pots and trays to re-use over the coming year.



NATURAL FAMILY HEALTH

with Jan Rickwood



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2018 has been a busy year for 1st Henham & Elsenham Scout Group, with our ever-expanding Beaver lodge and Cub pack taking part in numerous Group and District activities and events. Beavers had their summer Ice Age Camp in Dunmow, with Cubs spending the weekend camping at Belchamps Scout Activity Centre near Southend. Throughout the year we took part in night hikes, bell-ringing with Reverend Gary Townsend, Back Woods cooking, canoeing, swimming and Christmas crafts. Remembrance weekend saw a very smart turnout for parades in both villages. We were very lucky to have visits from the Elsenham Women's Institute, a percussionist and a karate instructor, all helping our Beavers and Cubs work towards their Activity and Challenge badges.

2018 saw the culmination of the four-year "Scouting for All" strategy, which aimed to ensure Scouting was shaped by its young people in partnership with adults, to be enjoyed by more young people and more adult volunteers nationwide, to make a positive impact in our communities and prepare young people to be active citizens.

2019 already presents 1st Henham & Elsenham with several local challenges. With new housing developments continuing to increase the number of young people wishing to join our group and long-serving and key team members soon to leave their positions. This, unfortunately, is creating a shortfall in numbers of group support staff.

We are, therefore, appealing to the community to consider volunteering with 1st Henham & Elsenham to ensure we continue to make Scouting available to all who wish to take part. You don't have to have been in Scouting before, training is provided, and flexible commitment options are available. It's not just leaders and helpers that we need on Beaver lodge and Cub pack nights, there are important committee, administration and event roles needed to support the group's activities, giving leaders more time to plan and work with a room full of excitable and boisterous 6-8 or 9-11 year-olds. Those interested in discussing volunteer opportunities with us are welcome to meet with the Leadership Team at a recruitment information and social evening on **Thursday 21 February at The Crown, Elsenham, from 7:30pm** onwards. Otherwise, please feel free to get in touch via the above phone number or ✉ mmorland25@gmail.com.

As always, a huge thanks must go to "The Gang": our committee members, leaders and helpers, who volunteer their time and resources to provide Scouting opportunities for all our young people.

VILLAGE GOOD FRIDAY RAMBLE

Friday 19 April 2019 @ 2.15pm Meet at Elsenham Memorial Garden.

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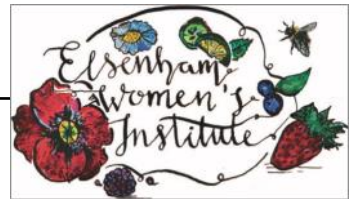


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ELSENHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

By Moyra Jackson ☎ 647351



On behalf of all our members I would like to wish everyone a peaceful, healthy and happy New Year filled with a lot of kindness and love.

What will 2019 hold for Elsenham WI? We launched our new programme for the coming year at our last meeting and it was met with lots of 'Oooh's' and 'Aaah's'. We have a few regulars like our Vintage Games and our parties plus a few new speakers to look forward to. The amazing Paul Martin is coming back for his long-awaited encore, but more about Paul later. A highlight for me is welcoming back our existing members for another year and the visitors who come along to see what it's all about. In five years, we have increased our numbers from 25 to just under 60. It would be lovely to make it to 70 this year in what is our 98th year.

Our Christmas Party was a lot of fun. The hall had been transformed by Santa's little helpers and gave a very festive feel to the night. We had a selection of impossible to wrap items by way of a challenge – or so I thought! Wrapping tennis rackets, baskets, and dolls prams was no obstacle for the teams and the end results were amazing. There were parcels bedecked in lights, paper flowers and wonderful baubles and bows. Our very own Amber Blake provided music for the night resulting in a fabulous Christmas sing-along. The competition entries were the best we have ever had – table decorations that would have graced any table. This was won by Sue Stokes who was presented with the Doris Thomas cup (again!). We are all wondering if Sue can make it three times in a row?



Our next meeting is on Thursday 21 February when Paul Martin comes along to tell us about 'Fifteen Minutes (Fleeting Fame)'. Paul was at our WI in 2017 and enthralled us all with his tales. Since then he has appeared on BBC's 'All Together Now' as the judge most hard to please – remember Paulus? Well, that's him. He has promised to bring along his pink ukulele and charm us once again with his unique style. An evening not to be missed.

In addition to our monthly meeting we also have Cinema Club, Bookworms and Ladies Who Lunch group. There are some fabulous events coming up hosted by the Federation of Essex WIs, providing a varied programme throughout Essex and our members regularly attend these events and workshops. On top of all that– it's just really good fun!

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

Elsenham WI – There's a lot going on!



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ELSENHAM C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

By Linda Reid, Headteacher



There has been a very busy and exciting start to the new year in school with the first of our classes moving into our new building. The children have been keen to explore their new surroundings, both inside and out, and have been particularly impressed by the new outdoor facilities, with the running track for Key Stage 1 proving to be a considerable favourite.

The opening of the new building has enabled us to offer Breakfast and After-School Clubs, providing childcare for the first time in our new studio. We have kept the cost of this provision as low as possible and we hope it will make a real difference for families at an affordable cost. These clubs are being run “in-house” and are staffed by members of our school staff team, who are already known to the children. There has been a definite ‘thumbs-up’ from our early participants!

The final stages of the building project are under way with completion expected later this month. The local authority has invested a very considerable sum of money into providing this excellent resource for the children in the village and we hope to have an open event to showcase the many changes that have taken place.

In addition to the new building; we welcome some new members of staff this month. Miss Lucas and Miss Hill join our teaching team with Miss Butterfield joining our support staff team. We hope they will all be very happy here.

We have lots of fantastic news in terms of academic achievement. At the end of last year we learned that we have been included in the top 500 state primary schools nationally (as listed in the Sunday Times) out of a total 16,766 primary schools in England. This is a huge achievement for us and the good news doesn't stop there.

We have received confirmation of the results from the national tests taken by Year 6 pupils in the summer of 2018. Ninety three percent of our pupils achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics compared with 64% of pupils nationally. This places us in the top 2% of pupils nationally. Progress in reading and mathematics was also significantly above average and in the top 6% of pupils nationally.

Sport in our school has started strongly this term with Kaja in Year 5 winning a gold medal in the tennis ball catch challenge throwing competition. The competition was held for Year 5 girls across the local area as part of the School Games Sports Award. Congratulations Kaja!

Other areas of sport this term; we look forward to the annual Swimming Gala at the Lord Butler Pool in Saffron Walden and, following their success in the earlier rounds of the competition, Max in Year 4 and Freddie in Year 3 will take part in the County Cross Country finals at Hadleigh Park. In addition to this, we also have football, basketball and netball matches to look forward to.

Please keep us in mind if you are shopping at Waitrose this month. The green tokens they provide can support the work of our PTA, FOES, who are raising funds to equip a new library for us.

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THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk



We have been sending monthly articles to magazine editors for more than four years and thought it might be a good idea to provide a reminder of the Society's aims and activities. The Hundred Parishes Society is a registered charity, run entirely by volunteers. It was launched in 2014 and is still relatively new.

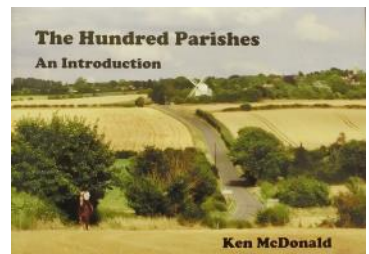
A full explanation of the organisation's objectives is given on its website. Put briefly, it exists to increase awareness, enjoyment and care of the Hundred Parishes, an area that is characterised by its rich and diverse heritage.

The area covered is approximately 450 square miles and incorporates 104 parishes in northeast Hertfordshire, northwest Essex and southern Cambridgeshire. It includes 6,700 listed buildings which is more than any of the country's National Parks, and this despite being smaller than most of them. It is also worth pointing out that the three districts in the UK with the greatest concentration of pre-1700 listed buildings are Uttlesford, Braintree and East Hertfordshire.

Running the organisation is the responsibility of a small group of trustees who meet about every two months. At the present time we would welcome an extra trustee, particularly one from Hertfordshire. We now have 120 members paying a minimum annual subscription of £10: a mixture of individuals and households, parish councils and other local organisations.

Our main activities revolve around the spreading of information through leaflets, the website, regular magazine articles, member emails and occasional talks. The website has details of 20 interesting walks, each starting and ending at a railway station.

In 2018 the Society published "The Hundred Parishes: An Introduction". This 400-page quality hardback book contains a brief history of each parish and is lavishly illustrated with almost 1,000 photographs. It can be bought at local Tourist Information Centres.



Mike Young, Trustee

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

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SANTA 2018 - VILLAGE HALL, SATURDAY 1 DECEMBER

By Sue Johnson ☎ 812704



A belated thank you to all who attended our village Santa event at the beginning of December last year!

We would also like to take this opportunity of thanking our wonderful stall holders and helpers on the day, all our sponsors (namely Brett Aggregates, Options Hair Design, Luxury Toilet Hire (UK) Ltd, Prontaprint (Bishop's Stortford), The Crown (Elsenham), Sophie May (Nail and Lash Technician), The Beauty Shack, Newport Pizza, Golf World Stansted and Learn to Love Yoga) and with special thanks to Santa himself, who kindly spared three hours for his visit to us this time!

To everyone, we wish you a very Happy New Year!

All being well, Santa will be back with us again on Saturday 7 December 2019.

HENHAM CHRISTMAS MARKET 2018 Raising money for St Clare Hospice & Alzheimer's Society

We would like to say a HUGE thank you to everyone who came to support our charity event. Thanks to everyone who baked cakes, donated raffle prizes, helped on the day, drank the tea and bought raffle tickets. Also to the fantastic range of stallholders, to Janette for her fabulous knitted toys and to Optoelectronics and Aquaid for their generous donations. You all made it a huge success.

We are very pleased to say that together we raised £4,435.52.
Many thanks from Jo, Lara, Lesley and Anna

NEXT YEAR'S CHARITY WILL BE ESSEX & HERTS AIR AMBULANCE TRUST

AID FOR ROMANIA

Our lorry is going out in early April (Brexit permitting!!). We are urgently seeking the following:

- Children's bikes
- Children's summer clothes (over 3yrs)
- Table tennis bats and balls and a net
- Surplus Christmas decorations
- Small items of furniture (bedside cabinets and chest of drawers)

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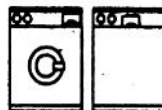
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A warm welcome to the New(ish) Year to all of you. Here's hoping it will be a happy, healthy and prosperous year for you.

I'll start this brief note with some figures: our Christmas Tree Festival raised £2,400 for the Fund, and this, together with the other events you have so generously supported, has allowed us to donate £15,000 to the project for an annex at your Church. We'll keep working to entertain you: please keep supporting us!

With those thoughts in mind we are busy planning our activities for 2019. I cannot give details just yet – those will be for a later issue of *Elsenham News* - but I can tell you that we are quite excited about our plans. We hope to lay on about four events this year, including a "biggie" in the summer. As I said, watch this space.

Looking forward to seeing you at some or all of our events. Until then, stay safe and enjoy all of the other activities that our village can offer.

ELSENHAM VILLAGE FETE 2019

Elaine Terry ☎ 812363 or 07962 586825



SATURDAY 8 JUNE 2019

1- 4pm

Fete plans are well under way and we would dearly love LOTS of village organisations to be involved this year so we can give everyone in the village the fete they want and deserve – please do get in touch so you can do your bit. One of our younger village members complained that there wasn't enough for them to do on the big day – can you help change that this year, we can't do it without you?

Also, we always want to keep the fete fresh and interesting and the best way to do that is to have new faces helping to plan and organise it. We are a very approachable bunch and I always serve nice coffee and biscuits at the meetings, so it'd be a win:win situation if you got involved!

Whatever you can do, we'd love to hear from you, so please call me on the above numbers or email to elaine.terry2011@btinternet.com. Thank you.

GOTHIC CINEMA ONE-DAY COURSE 11AM - 5.15PM , SATURDAY 9 FEBRUARY
At Saffron Screen, Saffron Walden www.saffronscreen.com for details or to book.
Suitable for 14+ Tickets £35, 30 & under £25

Run by Ellen Cheshire, this course introduces key themes and motifs used in the Gothic genre and a look at how key Gothic novels have been translated to screen.

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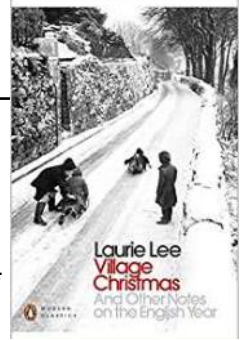
The difference is clear

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS

BY LAURIE LEE

Reviewed by Marion Giles

“Laurie Lee left his childhood home in the Cotswolds when he was nineteen, but it remained with him throughout his life until, many years later, he returned for good. This collection brings to life the sights, sounds, landscapes and traditions of his home - from centuries-old May Day rituals to his own patch of garden, from carol singing in crunching snow to pub conversations and songs. Here too he writes about the mysteries of love, living in wartime Chelsea, Winston Churchill's wintry funeral and his battle, in old age, to save his beloved Slad Valley from developers. Told with a warm sense of humour and a powerful sense of history, Village Christmas brings us a picture of a vanished world.” So says the blurb on the back of the book...



Reviews:

- **‘Simply written, observant and shot through with Lee's characteristic humility ... Against his whitewashed prose are touches of beauty .’**
Time Literary Supplement

This was the choice of the book group this month. There were mixed feelings. It is a collection of short stories and some were liked better than others.

Perhaps this book is best viewed as a book to dip in and out of, although the “Village Christmas” title is somewhat misleading. That said, it is a nice selection of descriptive short essays that can bring alive a scene, a street, a field, a time and place gone forever.

One to keep on the bookshelf but if you are wanting a collection of winter scenes, this may disappoint. Most of the group felt this was not his best work and gave the impression of being a collection of his works put together by his estate.

Published by: Penguin Classics

ISBN 978 0241243671



In December, as per our tradition, we read a book with a snowy or Christmassy theme in some way. This is a trilogy of three stories. As the stories are long, we decided to focus on the first story, The Christmas Thief and read the others if we had time, No-one read the other two stories and one group member stated that a better and more useful time could be had ironing your underwear. This summed it up for most of the rest of us.

Published by Simon & Schuster ISBN 978-1471170164



LOTTERY FUNDED

ELSENHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (ECA)

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 302362

**As an Elsenham resident you are a member
of the ECA so please join us for our AGM
(followed by refreshments)**

**Thursday 14 March 2019
7.45pm
Elsenham Memorial Hall**



**All Elsenham village organisations
can send a delegate to be
a member of the ECA Full Council**

For more information on the ECA please visit:

 www.essexinfo.net/eca/

or  elsenhamsCA@btinternet.com



**New Residents
welcome**





On Thursday, 14 March 2019 commencing at 7.45pm the Elsenham Community Association (ECA) will be holding its Annual General Meeting. Every resident of Elsenham is invited to attend.

The AGM is to report on the last year's events and to elect the Village Representatives and the Council. At the end of the meeting there will be wine and nibbles available.

Who or what is the ECA?

All village residents are automatically Full Members of the Association. A council is then formed to run the Memorial Hall, situated on the playing field (off Leigh Drive), and to ensure it is fit for hiring out to organisations within Elsenham and also for private hire. The ECA also hires the hall to Elsenham Parish Council for their meetings and to Uttlesford District Council for polling days.

The council is made up of full members comprising Village Representatives (elected) and Organisational Representatives (appointed) who all automatically become Trustees once on the council.

The organisations that regularly hire the hall and provide representatives (ECA Trustees) are Brownies, Tots and Toddlers, Women's Institute, Church Lunch Club, Elsenham Village Café, Rainbows, Little Fishes, Elsenham Youth Football, Elsenham History Society, Henham & District Gardening Club, and Elsenham Parish Council. Other organisations that provide representatives are the Bowls Club, the Tennis Club, Elsenham Church, St Mary's Fabric Fund and Neighbourhood Watch.

Regular users of the Memorial Hall include Zumba, Line Dancing, Studs and Stars, Yoga, Aerobics, Slimming World and Petals Together. The hall is also available to hire for meetings, conventions and private parties etc.

The ECA organises the annual Elsenham Village Fete, **Saturday, 8 June 2019**, Playing field, and annual Santa event, Saturday, **7 December 2019**, Village Hall (school).



STORYTELLING FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS

Wednesdays - 13 Feb, 13 Mar, 10 April, 8 May

1.30pm, £1 per child, Rhodes Museum, Bishop's Stortford

Perfect for toddlers and pre-school, our story telling mornings are a fantastic way to enjoy books with your little ones and let their imagination run wild! After the story telling you can join in with our activity, maybe a sing song, small craft session or a museum trail.

No need to book, just head to reception on your arrival.

Elsenham Tots & Toddlers Group

Assortment of toys - we are open to suggestions



Memorial Hall (playing fields)
Wednesdays at 9.30am to 11.30am

Meet others - make friends - have fun



Everyone welcome from mums-to-be, babies and toddlers up to 5 years - with parents, grandparents, carers etc

Just turn up, stay and have a chat

The first week is free and then £2.50 per adult and 1 child
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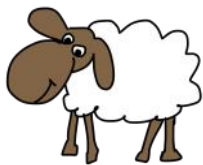
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DAISY MAY'S FARM



First of all, Happy New Year to you and yours!

Back in December, Daisy May's Christmas Extravaganza was the perfect way to kick off the festive season for everyone!



Despite the unkind weather, there was lots of fun to be had down on the farm. From the bauble festooned trees to glittery Santa's grotto, it all looked so sparkly and pretty you couldn't help but feel excited!

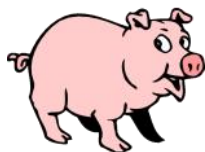
There were some lovely stalls to help folk start their Christmas shopping and you could munch on warm mince pies and drink hot mulled winter warmers whilst gift browsing. Lots of other delicious refreshments and hot drinks were available too.

The children went on a wonderfully exciting horse-drawn cart through the trees down to Santa's Grotto to meet the man himself and have a chat! They also wandered around to see the animals at the farm and could feed them too.

Daisy May's Farm is a local animal rescue centre and working community farm that has a terrific amount of re-homed animals so events like this are key to survival.

We are open every Tuesday and Saturday from 11am to 3pm – come and have a look and see for yourself what a great place this is.

Do you have any time to spare? If so, we'd love to hear from you, whether it's help with the animals or administrative support, construction know-how or getting involved with our fund raising events, **we ALWAYS need help.**



Any questions, call on ☎ 07747 787973 or email ✉ daisymaysfarm@gmail.com
We really look forward to hearing from you.



DID YOU KNOW...

... that there are weekly meetings for children of primary school age every Sunday during term time?

Elsenham Church Sunday Club/Explorers meet for an hour at Old Frank's in the High Street, opposite the school at 10am every Sunday. There are games, crafts, Bible stories and lots of fun.

If you would like to know more, contact Linda Willbe on ✉ l@willbe.me.uk or ☎ 815343 ... or just turn up!



St Mary's Church Elsenham

Vicar: Gary Townsend

The Vicarage, Carters Lane, Henham ☎ 850281

A 'fair-weather' supporter? (Letter from the Assistant Vicar)

Does a *real* football supporter enthusiastically cheer on his team - but only as long as his team is winning? What kind of supporter abandons their team when they have a run of bad form? Surely a true supporter cheers on his team through thick and thin - through good and bad times?

In life, some of us commit to others on the basis of what we can get out of the relationship rather than what we can give. We can treat our personal relationships in a selfish, mercenary way. When things are difficult we can too quickly withdraw that love and support and too hastily walk away.

We can also approach God with an attitude of "what's in it for me?" God becomes someone who is there to bless me and make my life go smoothly. We may think I'll follow him, but I expect him to answer my prayers for health and happiness and to smooth out life's problems. This made-up god is like some genie at our beck and call.

I remember when I was a young teenager in hospital and the minister from our local church came to visit, I thought to myself "That's nice - that's great, but I'm still in hospital!" I had at the time a sense that God was to be at my beckoning, solving my problems, making life good and because he didn't seem to do that, I then drifted away. It was around a decade later that God revealed his true self to me through his

Son, Jesus. Jesus had actually done an exceedingly great thing for me in giving up his very own life on the cross that I might have forgiveness and eternal life and enjoy a true and personal relationship with God. God doesn't promise to make life easy.

Jesus said "*If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.*" (Luke 9:23), Jesus said that in following him you may be persecuted, ridiculed, you may have to give up things that are very dear to you - sometimes even your very own life, as many Christians in other countries have found to their cost - but ultimately you will find that God does not disappoint.

Centuries before Jesus, the Prophet Habakkuk wrote that even in the midst of suffering and loss he would trust God and find a joy that was not based on circumstances but in God himself. "*Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines,*" he writes, "*though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Saviour*" (Habakkuk 3:17-18).

There is a joy that transcends our circumstances, that looks beyond and above to Jesus, who did not think of himself but who in love gave up everything for us.

God bless
Reverend Gary Tubbs

CHURCH EVENTS IN OUR VILLAGES IN FEBRUARY 2019

Church Services

St Mary's, Henham 8.00am

Sun 3 BCP Morning Prayer

St Mary's, Elsenham 8.45am

Sun 3 BCP Morning Prayer
 Sun 10 BCP Holy Communion
 Sun 17 BCP Morning Prayer
 Sun 24 BCP Holy Communion

St Peter's, Ugley 10.00am

Sun 3 Holy Communion
 Sun 10 Morning Service
 Sun 17 Morning Service
 Sun 24 Morning Service

Elsenham Village Hall 10.15am

Sun 3 Morning Service
 Sun 10 Holy Communion
 Sun 17 All Age Service
 Sun 24 All Age Service

St Mary's, Henham 11.15am

Sun 3 Morning Service
 Sun 10 Morning Service
 Sun 17 All Age Service & HC
 Sun 24 All Age Service

St Mary's, Henham 6.00pm

Sun 3 Sunday@Six & HC
 Sun 10 Sunday@Six
 Sun 17 Sunday@Six
 Sun 24 Sunday@Six

Other events next month:

World Day of Prayer

11.30am Friday 1 March 2019

St Peter's Church, Ugley

Everyone welcome, bring your children
and husbands too!

Other regular events:

SUNDAYS:

St Peter's Junior Church

St Peter's, Ugley 10.00am

Sundays: 3rd & 10th

Elsenham Sunday Club/Explorers

(Y1-Y6) Old Frank's, Elsenham

10.15am Sundays: 3rd & 10th

Henham Sunday Club (5 years-Y3)

Church Hall, Henham 11.00am

Sundays: 3rd & 10th

Henham Explorers (Y4-Y6)

OSCA, Henham 11.15am

Sundays: 3rd & 10th

Pathfinders (Y7-Y9)

St Mary's, Henham 6.00pm - leave

from service to meet in OSCA

Sundays: 3rd & 10th

Crammin' (Y10-Y13)

St Mary's, Henham 6.00pm followed

by 7.00pm at The Vicarage, Henham

Sundays: 3rd & 10th

MID-WEEK:

Start the Week with Prayer

Church Hall, Henham 9.30am

Mondays: 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th

Seekers After School Bible Club

(Y3-Y4) Elsenham School 3.15pm

Mondays: 4th, 11th & 25th

Christian Play (Y1-Y2)

Rowan House, Elsenham 3.15pm

Tuesdays: 5th, 12th & 26th

Little Fishes Pre-School Group

Church Hall, Henham 10.15am

Thursdays: 7th, 14th & 28th

Little Fishes Pre-School Group

Elsenham Memorial Hall 10.00am

Fridays: 1st, 8th & 15th

Church Lunch Club

Elsenham Memorial Hall 12.30pm

Fridays: 8th & 22nd

Afternoon Tea

Church Hall, Henham 2.00pm

Saturday (3rd of each month): 16th



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St Mary's Church Elsenham

Vicar: Gary Townsend

The Vicarage, Carters Lane, Henham ☎ 850281

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Funerals:

- Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's Church, Elsenham, followed by a burial in Elsenham Cemetery on 15 November 2018, Susan Rosalind Moulds, aged 72 years, of Ridley Gardens, Elsenham.
- Service of Thanksgiving at Cam Valley Crematorium, followed by a cremation, on 10 January 2019, Brian Leonard Turpin, aged 68 years, of Sages, Henham.

.....

World Day Of Prayer

(Interdenominational)

Be part of a 24 hour world wide chain of prayer.
Join us for as long or as short as you can.

Everyone welcome, bring your children and husbands too!

At 11.30am on Friday 1 March 2019 at Ugley Church

This year's service is prepared by the **Christian Women of Slovenia.**

The theme of the service is: **'Come – Everything is Ready!'**.

11.30am Informal service
12.30pm Close

Please come for as much time as you are able to. All are welcome. If you need transport or further information, please contact the church office on ☎ 814285

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Elsenham Church New Electoral Roll

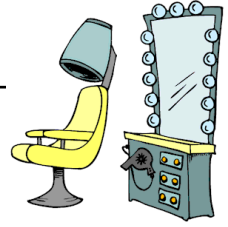
Dear parishioners,

It is time for the church to prepare a new electoral roll. Even if you are already on the church electoral roll you still need to complete a form (re-apply). If you are not on the church electoral roll and would like to be, now is the time to do it. Forms are available at the church or from the church office, Old Frank's, High Street, Elsenham. You have until the 28 March to complete your form and hand it in either at the church office or to the PCC Secretary, David Hill or the Electoral Roll Officer, William Coleby.

Gary Townsend

TALK BEHIND THE CHAIR

By Ann Fegan



A client today, well known to you all for her verbal intelligence and observations, remarked about why a change of hairstyle can happen. A fascinating conversation followed. (Whoops! I hope her hair was not cut too short. Many years ago, I had a male client who asked for a five minute hair cut on the basis that the more I talked the shorter his hair gets! The fact he is now hairless is not, I hope, the result of some very interesting conversations.)

However, why or what are psychological drivers that make us change our style. I am sure we can all relate to more than one reason. Ladies and gents, we have been there. Whatever we are going through in our lives can be observed in our hair; from bleaching the darkest hair to the curliest curls, we tend to change our hairstyle after something good, bad or immense happens.

1. A recent relationship breakup. Many hair mistakes made with this one.
2. You want to try the 'celebrity' haircut you just saw, because it will change your life. Think twice before you try that haircut you just saw on the red carpet.
3. A new hairstyle means a new beginning. Though you may be happy with your new hair, beware, this won't last as long as the hair cut does.
4. You want to boost your self esteem. Probably the best reason to get a hair cut, this really can change how you feel about yourself.
5. You want to follow trends. Remember the photographic evidence will last for years! (We all had an 80s hair disaster).
6. That sneaky grey hair you just noticed. Our worst nightmare!
7. Your split ends have become a burden to you. Long hair problems.
8. You want a significant change in your life. A good hair cut can help but can't do it alone.
9. You believe changing your hair will solve all your problems. If only hairdressers could do that! We do try!
10. What shall I do today? Maybe just change my hair. Boredom can lead to drastic hair changes (not always a bad thing).
11. You are 'tricked' by your hairstylist. Oh dear – now would we do that? Maybe if we thought you needed a little nudge towards fabulous hair.

Whatever the reason behind your haircut, a good stylist will always help direct you to the best decision.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT 2018

By Cllr Lees and Cllr Lecount

Cllrlecount@uttlesford.gov.uk

☎ 07836 346 717

Cllrlees@uttlesford.gov.uk

☎ 816675

Sometimes it appears that the District Council is all about planning, house building and waste disposal. UDC offers a lot more than that. There are initiatives to help us keep safe and well. For example advice to keep us physically fit and mentally well.

Did you know there is a **Free** 12 week programme that delivers a common sense approach to losing weight? Not a group - you just turn up and get individual support. Our nearest group is in Stansted. For more information call ☎ 0800 022 4525 (press option 3) or visit 🌐 www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/5550/Keeping-Safe-and-Well

It has been suggested that there are five steps we can all take to improve our mental wellbeing:

- connect with others
- take regular physical activity
- keep learning new skills
- give to others
- be mindful and aware of your own and others' feelings

We also really like the initiative at UDC to help combat loneliness. We actively support attempts to help folk feel more engaged.

We are always available to discuss any issue. We welcome feedback.

We still have some money left from our ward initiatives fund, and we welcome any requests from local people or groups that need assistance.

Our surgery date this month will be 25 February at 12.30pm at the Café Lunch at the Memorial Hall in Elsenham. Come and enjoy the Village Café and talk to us about anything that concerns you. If you need privacy please call us.

HATFIELD FOREST SPRING EVENTS

Looking ahead to when we are no longer checking the sky for snow and are wrapped up warm, there are some great events at Hatfield Forest this spring. They fill up quickly so check them out now at 🌐 www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfield-forest/whats-on

AUDLEY BUTLER SCHOOL, - AUDLEY END HOUSE & GARDENS

Mon 18 - Fri 22 February, 11am-4pm Adults £11.80, Children (5-17) £7.10

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DEVELOPMENT DEVELOPMENTS

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



The application by Stansted Airport for an increase in passengers was approved at a meeting of the Planning Committee of Uttlesford District Council in November. Some committee members contributed more than others. A curious local resident with, presumably, an abundance of time on his hands has established that the five councillors who eventually voted against approval spoke in total 103 times, whereas the four who voted in favour, excluding the Chairman, spoke in all 11 times. Some councillors were clearly befuddled. One who voted for approval spoke just once, and commented: ‘the information we’ve got, thousands of pages, is extremely difficult to take in. Because the more you read the more tired your mind gets and then tends to get a little bit fuzzy’. A member who voted against, a solicitor and therefore used to reading through reams of stuff for a living, said he was ‘out of my depth’; ‘I truly don’t think anyone here – including you, Mr Chairman – can put your hand on your heart and say: “I know what I’m doing”. You don’t.’

The proceedings amply justified Stop Stansted Expansion’s objections to the application being decided by Uttlesford on the grounds that UDC’s officers lacked the expertise to appraise such a large and technical application, and that UDC’s Planning Committee was not qualified to make an informed decision. SSE’s court action claiming that the application should be ‘called in’ for determination by the Secretary of State is ongoing.

UDC seems to be making a habit of accepting proposals without reading them properly. The Sustainability Appraisal is a key document in the new Local Plan. The Planning Policy Working Group recently agreed to a completely new version comprising 523 pages, although some members admitted to insufficient time to absorb it all. They also adopted an update on local representations of 333 pages; the total of 856 pages was approved in 50 minutes, giving an impressive average rate of 17.12 pages per minute.

There was a previous SA (anything with CAPITALS is made into an acronym), which UDC was happy with, until they were told that it should be reviewed. So they commissioned more consultants, who perhaps unsurprisingly ripped it to shreds and stamped on the pieces (probably not literally). UDC reckoned their budget allowed for such an outcome and said, in effect, ‘OK, if you think you can do better, you can get on with it’, and the new report was produced in double-quick time.

This shining new SA now goes out to yet another consultation, for six weeks, ending on 25 February. UDC are simultaneously sending the whole of the draft Local Plan to the Inspectorate, with the promise that representations on the SA will follow later. The lawyers have said no problem with this, but UDC are a tad nervous and are asking them if they’re really sure. After the Inspector has considered all the documents, thoroughly we hope on this occasion, public hearings will be held, probably after the local elections in early May.

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ELSENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7 JANUARY 2019

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

Elsenham Parish Council is extremely dissatisfied with the present Uttlesford District Council's policy regarding new litter and dog waste bins. The village has increased by around 50%, therefore, Uttlesford District Council is receiving extra council tax from the new residents and yet refuses to carry out a fundamental duty of emptying any extra village litter or dog waste bins. If the Parish Council moves litter bins or buys new bins to accommodate the extra housing, the Parish Council would have to pay someone to empty these bins. It would be far more cost effective if the whole procedure was carried out by Uttlesford District Council and all the bins were collected together. However, Uttlesford's way makes the District Council look efficient, as they are not having to increase their refuse budget, but it is the tax payer that ultimately loses out by having to pay extra.

British Telecom has now agreed to the Parish Council adopting for £1 the disused telephone box on the corner of New Road and Station Road. The Elsenham History Society is going to make it into a mini museum.

The Parish Council has sent off a letter responding to the library consultation. If you want to keep our local libraries open please complete the consultation. You will find the details on p7.

The Boxing Day walk was a success despite the mud. Fifty-one people plus dogs turned up to complete the two-hour walk.

To accommodate all the budgets required for 2019/20, the Parish Council will have to ask for a precept of £76,000. This is an increase of £6,000 but with the income from the extra housing the percentage per household is a 2.6% increase.

The local elections are to be held on 2 May 2019. If you are over 18 and do not have a criminal record, you may stand for council. If Elsenham has more than 11 candidates then an election will be held. The village has not held an election for Elsenham Parish Council for over 50 years.

The second Tommy is now standing in the Memorial Garden. Thank you to all the residents and organisations that donated funds to help make this happen.

The Parish Council is going to update their website. The current website was set up over eight years ago and technology has moved on since then. The benefits for the community will be to make the site visually appealing, accessible on mobile devices, able to link to other online platforms and to invite two-way communication.

The volunteer evening was a great success and was extremely well attended with lots of good feedback from people who had enjoyed the evening. It was a wonderful community evening and certainly something to think about doing again this year.

The next Parish Council meeting is on 4 February 2019 at 8pm in the Memorial Hall.

Paddy McKeown



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About the Church Lunch club:

At the CLC we offer the chance for people from Henham, Elsenham, Ugley and surrounding areas to meet together, make new friends, eat a delicious meal and just take a break from everyday cares and worries. We are also here to help anyone wanting to find out more about the Christian faith; but you do not have to be a church goer to come and join us and enjoy a good chat after your meal.

When/where: Monthly - 2nd and 4th Friday at 12.30pm, Memorial Hall, Elsenham. The two course meal costs £5 including tea or coffee.


Next meeting dates: 8 and 22 February

If you would like to come to the Church Lunch Club please call Rachel Pilcher ☎ 850819 or Shirley Wilcock ☎ 902477 or ☎ 07714742104

We look forward to hearing from you.

Ray's Reflections
Ray's Reflections


February and Valentine's Day.



Valentine's Day is most closely associated with the mutual exchange of love notes in the form of "Valentines." Modern valentine symbols include the heart-shaped outline and the figure of the winged cupid. Since the 19th century, handwritten notes have largely given way to mass-produced greetings cards. Approximately one billion valentines are sent each year worldwide, making this day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year behind Christmas. It is estimated that women purchase approximately 85% of all valentines.

"If apples were pears
And peaches were plums
And the rose had a different name.
If tigers were bears
And fingers were thumbs
I'd love you just the same."

We may owe our observance of Valentine's Day to the Roman celebration of Lupercalia, a festival of eroticism that honoured Juno Februata, the goddess of "feverish" (febris) love. Annually, "billets doux" (love notes) would be drawn to partner men and women for feasting and sexual game playing.




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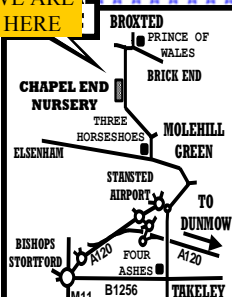
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The Christmas Lunch at Bury Lodge was a great success again this year. Members were entertained before the lunch by the Stansted U3A Singers with seasonal songs and a chance to join in with some well-loved traditional favourites. The food and wine flowed and a good time was had by all. The members who attended the December monthly meeting enjoyed mince pies and cakes to help feed their brains for the fun quiz that followed. The U3A decorated two Christmas trees for the St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival and the Stansted U3A Strummers entertained the visitors there on the Sunday. There were a lot of celebrations going on in the individual groups too.

The next meeting will be on 21 February in St John's Church Hall, 1.30pm for 2pm when Keef Jackman will give a light-hearted talk on the History of the Ukulele. New members are always welcome.

Our next Saturday Seminar is on 16 March. Railway Progenitors, George and Robert Stephenson, will be presented by Dr Michael Bailey, President of the Stephenson Locomotive Society. For more details, go to our website or ✉ stanstedseminars@gmail.com

Our U3A is in the process of planning a programme of outings for 2019. It may be ready by the time you read this so check on our website. There is also a holiday planned for September to West Sussex and Brighton and booking for that starts at the February meeting.

One of our French groups has been dormant for a while since losing the group leader, but plans may be afoot to start a new French group, so please contact us if you are interested.

Our U3A has 28 different interest groups that meet either weekly, fortnightly or monthly and new members are always welcome. Why not check our website for full details, ✉ stanstedu3a@gmail.com, come along to a general meeting or call ☎ 07874 385541 for more details.



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• **With a wooden door:** make sure that you use the 5-lever mortise lock and the night latch or rim lock.

2

Keep your keys away from your front door, out of sight and not left near a window but readily available in case of an emergency.

3

Keep your money, gadgets and other valuables out of view from windows, doors or anywhere else they could be seen from outside.

4

Leave lights on timers or radios in the rooms you use the most, to make it look like you are in. For further information about TV simulators and other security suggestions visit our website.

5

If you have a burglar alarm, set it every time you leave the house or go to bed. For more information about burglar alarms, visit our website or buy it from a reputable company by visiting www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk, www.nsi.org.uk or www.ssalb.org

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ELSENHAM VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

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



At our last meeting in November (seems a long time ago now) Alan Taylor, noted local WW1 historian and battlefield guide, gave his talk “The Last Battle – November 2018 and Beyond”.

The war ended at 11am on 11 November 1918 and even though the time of the armistice had been communicated to the trenches beforehand, men were being killed less than twenty minutes before the ceasefire. As the guns fell silent for the first time in four years of war, the men in the trenches were unbelieving that peace had finally come. There was after all a great deal to be said for life in the trenches, you were sure of your next meal – if you lived to eat it; the shells fell on good and bad alike producing a great sense of camaraderie and there was no poverty. In the future many men would look back on trench life with affection but suddenly they realised with some shock that they could live to be old men with all that implied for having to fend for themselves as the support from the army ceased. Today we would recognise these feelings as symptoms of PTSD or battlefield fatigue.

You may recall that when *For The Duration* was published in 2014, Walter Turner was the missing man, there being no information about him available at that time. In 2016, his grandson was located and the editors gained a great deal of information about Walter that was subsequently written up and posted to the EVHS website. Last year, the speaker took Walter’s grandson and family to visit Passchendaele and his grave in the New Irish Farm Cemetery. Whilst paying their respects a motorcade turned up carrying Theresa May who was doing a little sightseeing on her way to a meeting and she came over and spoke to the group. It is rather ironic to consider that 100 years after Walter’s death, there were three generations of his family talking to the British Prime Minister at his graveside.

Following this episode, it has further come to light that Walter had died in company with an Australian serviceman (by the name of Kelly) while they were engaged in trying to retrieve a field gun from the shell hole it had fallen into. Australian records having survived better than those in the UK, it is hoped that the additional detail in these records will better explain exactly where Walter died and how.

Our next meeting and AGM will be on Wednesday 13 March when Roger Barrett from the Stansted History Group will be speaking about the Fuller-Maitlands of Stansted Hall. Talks later in the year will be: 12 June The History & Practice of Thatching by Master Thatcher, Lee Player; 11 September Arabic Carpenter’s Marks and the Building of Kings College Chapel by returning speaker Bill Hardy and finally on November 13 DNA, Surnames and Genealogy by Mark Carroll.

Meetings are free to members and visitors pay just £2 but this is the perfect time to join us for just £5 to enjoy all four meetings through the coming year.

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ELSENHAM TENNIS CLUB

By Petra Studholme ☎ 814667



New Year resolutions still going strong?

Tennis is a great way to exercise so come along to our club night on Tuesday evenings, or join the Ladies' group on a Friday, see below. Contact us if you are considering private lessons and we will put you in touch with our coach.

Junior coaching sessions

Elsenham coach, Ollie Toms, is providing junior coaching weekly sessions for all abilities – it's not too late to join, please ✉ mail@elsenhامتennisclub.co.uk for any enquiries or bookings.

Give it a go – hire the courts as non-member(s) – it's easy!

If you just want to hire the courts ad-hoc ring Petra on ☎ 814667 or ☎ 07884 024106 and we will arrange for you to play at your leisure at very reasonable rates. 24hrs notice is required.

ESCL winter league results

The mixed team started off the winter season in Division 1 at Harlow but had to concede a 2:14 loss. Great play by Ashley, Linda, Petra and Stuart but it wasn't enough on the day. Hard luck.

This was swiftly followed by a home match where we managed a hard-earned but well-deserved win against Dunmow. Nobody said division one was easy but we pulled it off with a 9:7 win. Well done Linda and Alan, Petra and Oscar.

Very proud captain's moment: 8:8 draw on points but ahead 35:30 games for our latest match at home to Harlow. Strong play again by Linda and Stuart, Petra and Mike S. Super result against very strong opposition.

Follow us on Facebook

If you follow our Elsenham Tennis Club group on Facebook you will find further and more frequent updates on planned activities such as the Sunday afternoon play or half-term activities.

Weekly Activities

Tuesday Club Night – 8pm until 10.30pm. All welcome

Wednesday – Club Practice Sessions 7.30-9pm

Friday - Ladies' Morning – from 10am

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ELSENHAM BOWLS AND SOCIAL CLUB

By Therese Clear ☎ 816535 ✉ ebc@tavaras.net



Firstly, I hope you all had wonderful Christmas and New Year celebrations and you are successful in keeping on top of those resolutions – healthier, fitter and the dreaded dry January! By the time you read this you'll be ready for that welcome first pint – at the club of course!

Although it seems a while ago now, we had our AGM on Thursday 29 November and elected a Committee for 2019. David Verlander continues as our Chairman, also Trevor Judd as Treasurer, Therese Clear as Secretary, Colin Cherry as Bar Team Leader, Ray Jones as Men's Captain, Jean Platt, Pauline Martin and Ray Franklin. New to the Committee are Do Hackett as Ladies' Captain, Chris and Sue Waite (who were also elected as Vice-Captains) and to them we extend a big welcome.

Those of you at the AGM will also know that we took on board the suggestions at last year's EGM to consider changing the Club name to Elsenham Bowls and Social Club. Peter Clear, as Trustee, took this proposal forward for you and it was voted on by the Members and was carried by a majority vote. Hopefully this will help our social members to feel more engaged with the club and use it as a social venue. Friday night is social night so we look forward to welcoming you there.

I made an appeal at the AGM for someone to help us either in person or with ideas for the social activities within the club and I was delighted that after the meeting Elaine Bright came forward and offered to help out in this capacity. She agreed to take the last vacant place on the committee and as such was co-opted at the first committee meeting. A big welcome to you Elaine and also to Luke Briggs who also subsequently offered to help out with social events.

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Christmas Eve and New Year evenings where members and guests came to the club for drinks and celebrations. The Christmas raffle was drawn and we were pleased to congratulate Barry Halliwell for winning the champagne, Lynsey Jackson the Belgian chocolate biscuits, Mark Saunders the chocolates and Sue and Chris Waite the fudge log. Thank you all for supporting the raffle.

SOCIAL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Bingo – 2 and 16 February 7 for 7.30pm. We are getting quite a crowd now on Bingo nights and that means bigger cash prizes for those participants who are lucky enough to win. Is that you – do you feel lucky??

We are always pleased to welcome visitors or new members at the club. Opening hours are Monday to Friday evenings 7pm – 11pm ish.

Anyone wishing to join Elsenham Bowls and Social Club can contact our membership secretary Brenda Kendrick on ☎ 870412.

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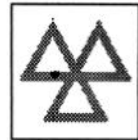


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NATURAL OUTLOOK ON WALLASEA WANDERINGS

By Heather Salvidge ☎ 814153



Last February's weather was awful – snow at the start and ten days of the 'Beast from the East' to finish. Mid-month, there were a few warmer days than those but that was it. Due to last autumn's weather, it meant that in our garden the viburnum bodnantense started flowering in November, a month early and hazel catkins have been showing yellow along parts of the Bishop's Stortford bypass and other hedges since later January. This is not necessarily good news as there are few or no pollinators around which bodes ill for next autumn's nut crop. Cold weather does tend to bring birds into our village open spaces and gardens seeking shelter.

Last year, fieldfares and redwings joined the rooks, crows, starlings and pied wagtails on the playing field to feed. It remains to be seen whether, given the increased human activity nearby, they will be about this year. I have yet to have a single fieldfare in the garden and only a few overhead. I'll keep a watch on the field between Elsenham Place and Hall Road where they have often been seen before.

On one of last February's 'warm' days, in need of my annual Brent Goose 'fix', we drove to the east coast, this time to Wallasea Island, a flat area of SE Essex sandwiched between the River Crouch to the north (opposite Burnham-on-Crouch) and the river Roach to the south. It is now an RSPB reserve and the flat land is still being raised and altered using spoil from the Cross Rail project. There are salt marshes, creeks, small islands, wading areas and more inland grassy areas where skylarks and lapwings nest and the kestrel hovers.

The bird list for the visit was quite impressive including up to, say, 70 dark-bellied Brent Geese, our smallest duck, teal, and the largest, shelduck, as well as a small flock of corn buntings. Brents are rather small neat geese, having black heads and necks marked by a small white crescent, a dark breast and white stern. Shelduck are more or less the same size but in different proportions e.g. a shorter neck. They have dark green heads that look black in some lights. Their bodies are mostly white set off by a broad chestnut breast band and patches, a black wing edge and a longways belly stripe and tail tips. Drake and duck both have red bills but the drake's has a knob. The juvenile's plumage is much less spectacular, only gradually gaining the bright colours but still has the same overall shape. Against the overall length of the shelduck (100 – 120 cm) teals are only 35 cm. In their breeding plumage, the males have a chestnut head with a large green eye patch, a greyish back with a white wing stripe, a speckled creamy chest, a yellowish undertail and a green patch 'speculum' on the wings. Females are plainer; mostly shades of brown with a paler underbelly and the tell-tale green speculum. The corn buntings, too, are mainly streaky brown for their plumage. They are a large bunting, social but sing singly on a perch. They have a pinkish yellow bill and long, pale legs that they sometimes dangle if flying only a short distance.

Around the village look out for the first aconites and snowdrops in flower!

STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

By David Brown ✉ david1.r.brown@gmail.com ☎ 01279 831011



2019 will be a huge year for cricket in England. The World Cup begins on 30 May and concludes on 14 July – England are favourites - no pressure! This will be followed by the Australians staying on and playing for the Ashes. Hopefully this plethora of cricket will encourage more people into the game, especially youngsters.

At 'The Hall' we would like anybody interested in cricket to give us a call – young or old we will be encouraging you all to take part. 2019 is a big year for the club as the 1st XI have been promoted to Division 1 of the Herts & Essex League and our boys are looking forward to the challenge. Unfortunately, this promotion means more travelling which is not too good. We are hopeful that the youth section will continue to expand as our Clubmark accreditation has been successfully acquired for another three years. In effect, this indicates that we are a well-run club and your youngsters will be coached by ECB qualified coaches.

Our other main project will be to get the funding for a new pavilion at our Elsenham Place ground. The club is hopeful but we are still well short of our target.

We wish you all a very happy New Year – come on England. Winning the World Cup and regaining the Ashes will give our game a much needed boost.

RUN THE LONDON VITALITY 10K 4 SIGHT LOSS

Support 4 Sight has places available to run in the London Vitality 10k Race on Monday 27 May 2019.



Running 10k is an ideal blend of speed and endurance and, importantly, the training can be easily fitted into your lifestyle.

The London Vitality 10k route takes runners past many of London's famous sights including Nelson's Column, St Paul's Cathedral, the Bank of England, the Old Bailey, the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey. The course runs along the Strand twice, at 1km and at 8km, making this a great place to watch the action.

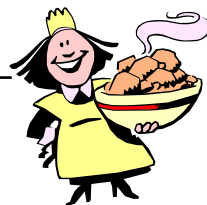
Support 4 Sight is offering the places free and expect participants to meet a minimum Fundraising Target of £300.

Support 4 Sight is a registered charity, based in Saffron Walden, which offers help and support to people with sight loss in Essex. It strives to enable people with visual impairment to maintain an independent lifestyle.

If you would like to run in support of Support4Sight contact the fundraising team on ☎ 01799 588897 or ☎ 07506 739600.

COOKERY CORNER

By Sue Johnson ☎ 812704



This recipe from “Down Under” originated during World War I, when wives and mothers would make these oaty biscuits to send to Anzac (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) troops fighting at Gallipoli in Turkey. Stored in an airtight tin, they will keep for up to three months.

ANZAC BISCUITS (makes 12)

4½oz (125g) plain flour
4oz (100g) medium oatmeal or porridge oats
4oz (100g) light soft brown sugar
2oz (50g) desiccated coconut
4oz (100g) unsalted butter, cut into cubes
1 tablespoon golden syrup or honey
½ teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
1 tablespoon boiling water

Preheat the oven to 180°C/160°Fan /Gas Mark 4. Line two baking trays with non-stick parchment.

Sift the flour into a medium mixing bowl. Add the oatmeal or porridge oats, brown sugar and coconut and mix together thoroughly.

Put the butter and golden syrup or honey into a small saucepan. Place over a low heat until the butter has melted. Meanwhile, put the bicarbonate of soda into a cup and pour on the boiling water to dissolve.

Next, stir the bicarb mix into the melted butter, be very careful – the mixture will rapidly fizz and foam up. Pour the frothing mixture into the dry ingredients. Using a wooden spoon, quickly mix together to form a thick batter.

Place generous tablespoonfuls of the mixture onto the prepared baking sheets, allowing room for spreading. Gently flatten the tops with the back of a fork.

Bake for 10-12 minutes until golden brown. Take the biscuits out of the oven, leave to cool on baking trays for 10 minutes. Transfer to a wire rack and leave to cool completely.

CHEF'S TIPS:

For more chewy biscuits, replace the brown sugar with caster sugar, or for a slightly chewy biscuit, try using half soft brown sugar and half caster sugar. If you have any cornflakes that need using up, crush 3oz (75g) of these and use instead of the oatmeal. Medium oatmeal gives better results than jumbo oats.

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 handwritten articles that 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: 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: village residents may submit details of items wanted or for sale at no charge. These will be included in the next available 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 Sarah, see details below.

Advertising

The costs are as follows:

	Single Insertion	Annual Cost (11 issues)
Half Page	£17	£175
Quarter Page	£9	£90
Inside Page	£50	n/a
Back Page	£75	n/a

Village organisations attract reduced rates, £4 for ¼ page. Half and full-page adverts attract full rates.

To place an advertisement:

For any queries please contact us. Please send your advert as Word or Publisher via email to elsenhamsnews@hotmail.co.uk

Once your advert has been approved and you are happy with it, you will be sent an invoice, which should be paid by BACS.

Flyers

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

Editorial Team

Sarah Alder	817660
Marion Giles-Donovan	812763
Heather Baxter	812924

ECA Website

www.essexinfo.net/eca/

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

Village Good Friday Ramble 19 April 2019
 Village Fete Saturday 8 June Playing Field 1-4pm

VILLAGE CONTACTS

Airport Roadside Parking		0800 731 2385
Beavers	Jackie Weston	816282
Bowls Club	Jean Platt	816151
Brownies	Jennifer Jarvis	814434
Church Office (Old Frank's, High St, Elsenham)	Anna Hicks	814285
County Councillor (Stansted)	Ray Gooding	813103
Cricket Club	David Brown	831011
The Crown pub	info@thecrown.info	814444
Cub Scouts	Linda Gleeson	850504
Cycling Club (Victoria CC)	Doug Yareham	07884 040892
ECA (Chairman)	Allan Hathaway	813385
ECA (Secretary)	Jill French	647543
ECA Website		www.essexinfo.net/eca/
Elsenham Surgery	www.elsenhamsurgery.nhs.uk	814730
Elsenham C of E Primary School	Linda Reid, Headteacher	813198
Elsenham Church PCC Secretary	David Hill	812397
Friends of Elsenham School (FOES)	Gemma Mills	07745 036066
Guides elsenhamguides@gmail.com	Gemma Lewis	07792 572423
Henham & District Garden Society	Jo Jeffrey	01799 542744
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	Graham Jackson	812297
Parish Clerk - Louise Johnson	louise.epc@gmail.com	07456 791727
Elsenham Parish Council Website	www.essexinfo.net/elsenhamparishcouncil	
Police		101
Post Office		812175
Rainbows	Petrina Lees	816675
St Mary's Fabric Fund	Elizabeth Barker	813543
Tennis Club	Petra Studholme	814667
Tots & Toddlers	Trudi Marsh	899864
Uttlesford District Councillors	Petrina Lees	816675
(for Elsenham & Henham)	Garry LeCount	07836 346717
Village Hall Bookings	Annie Gleeson	07809 490731
Village Hall email address	elsenhamvillagehall@gmail.com	647729
WI	Gill Hathaway	813385
WI website		www.elsenhamwi.co.uk
Youth Football Club (Chairman)	Paul Jarvis	814434

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

SBS

Various skip sizes available:

- 2, 4, 6, 8, 12 yard skips

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delivered/collected

*Areas covered: Elsenham, Stansted Mountfitchet,
Henham, Broxton, Newport, Takeley
Bishop's Stortford*

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