

Elsenham News



Inside your Elsenham News, as well as the many and varied trades people advertising, you will find a large number of clubs and organisations active within the village and always ready to welcome new members. Have a good read and why not get involved with one or more of them.



elsenhamsnews@hotmail.co.uk

February 2024
75p where sold

Elsenham Village Regular Monthly or Quarterly Activities

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

February 2024 diary

Sat	3 & 17	Bingo	Bowls & Social Club 7 for 7.30pm
Mon	5	Parish Council Meeting	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Tues	6	Henham & District Garden Soc	AGM Memorial Hall 2.30pm
Tues	6 & 20	Elsenham Community Choir	Village Hall 7pm
Thurs	8	Recycling Information Evening	Memorial Hall 7.30pm
Fri	9 & 23	Church Lunch Club	Memorial Hall 12.30pm
Sat	10	Line Dance	Bowls & Social Club 7pm
Mon	12	Natter Night	The Crown 7.30pm
Tues	13 & 27	Life Drawing	Village Hall 7.30pm
Thurs	15	WI	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Sat	17	ECA Race Night	Memorial Hall 6.45pm
Thurs	22	District Councillors' Surgery	OSCA, Henham 6.30pm
Sat	24	Elsenham Farmers Market	Village Hall 12.30 - 2.30pm
Sat	24	Whist Drive	Bowls & Social Club 7pm
Mon	26	Elsenham Eagles	The Crown 7.30pm



Mobile Library
Every third Thursday stopping at Glebe End
11.50 am to 12.20 pm

Elsenham Village Regular Weekly Activities

Day	Time	Activity	Location
Monday	9.30-10.30am	Zumba	Memorial Hall
	10.30am	Health walk	Start at De Mandeville Green
	4-4.30pm	Rascals (3-4yrs)	Memorial Hall (term time)
	4.30-5.30pm	Rascals (5-7yrs)	Memorial Hall (term time)
	5.30-7pm	Rascals (8-12yrs)	Memorial Hall (term time)
	7-7.45pm	Boxercise	Elsenham Village Hall
	7.30-8.30pm	Shape to the beat	Memorial Hall (not 1st Monday)
Tuesday	9.30-10.30am	Touchpoint Food Share	Bowls & Social Club
	9.30-11.30am	Village Café Coffee	Memorial Hall
	4.45-5.45pm	Rainbows	Memorial Hall (term-time)
	4.45-5.45pm	Beavers	Ugley Village Hall (term-time)
	6-7.15pm	Cubs (Wolf Pack)	Ugley Village Hall (term-time)
	6-7.30pm	Brownies	Memorial Hall (term-time)
	7.30-10.30pm	Tennis Club night	Tennis Courts
	8pm	Fitness Yoga/Pilates	Memorial Hall
Wednesday	9.45-11.30am	Tots & Toddlers	Memorial Hall (term-time)
	5.30-7.30pm	Slimming World	Memorial Hall
	7-9pm	Scouts	Ugley Village Hall (term-time)
	7.30pm	Aerobics	Elsenham Village Hall
Thursday	8.45am-2pm	Cakery & Barista	Memorial Hall
	6-7.15pm	Cubs (Bear Pack)	Ugley Village Hall (term-time)
	6.45-7.45pm	Jump Fit	Elsenham Village Hall
Friday	10-11am	Little Fishes	Memorial Hall (term-time)
Saturday	8.15am-1pm	Tarte au Citroen	Playing Field
	9-11am	Dance Scene	Memorial Hall
	9am-12pm	Junior Football	Playing Field
	8.45-9.30am	Little Kickers Mighty	Village Hall (term time)
	9.35-10.20am	Little Kickers Junior	Village Hall (term time)



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SPEAKER: BECKY TOMKINS, UDC WASTE AND RECYCLING OFFICER

THURSDAY 8TH FEBRUARY

7.30PM IN MEMORIAL HALL

REFRESHMENTS

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

**The local meeting
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THE NEWS REPORT

From The Editors



As we look ahead to 2024, we are extremely grateful not just to our loyal advertisers and regular contributors but to the Parish Council. Without their financial support for the coming year we would be struggling. Now, we can concentrate on supporting our local trades (our advertisers) and all the organisations and clubs supplying articles for us. Thank you Elsenham Parish Council.

As a volunteer team, we believe the most important role we have is to provide a service to the residents of Elsenham. We do that by providing information on activities and services within the village and introducing them to local trades people. We hope you like the work we are doing.

If this first issue of the year is anything to go by, it will be a busy year for us. Even having held one or two items back, this is still a larger issue than the previous two Februaries.

We are also always open to new contributors. If you are working with a club or organisation that you feel could be of benefit to the people of Elsenham and would like to run a regular article, please do contact us.

Occasional articles are also always welcome. Any article has to be checked by the team first, but if it is interesting and we have the space we would be happy to run it for you. Again, please send it in and let's see if we can support you.

So, all the best for 2024 and rest assured we will be here with you throughout the coming year.

Environmental tip for the month:

Before you throw it in the bin, stop. Could it be recycled?

Regular features

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Elsenham Bowls & Social Club

Saturday 10th February 7 pm

Cyndy Brown's
LINE DANCE

Beginners catered for

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ELSENHAM PARISH COUNCIL JANUARY 2024

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



Happy New Year to everyone.

The majority of the meeting held on 8 January 2024, was spent on agreeing the budgets for 2024/2025 and setting a precept.

The following factors were taken into consideration:

- Inflation is currently high.
- There were six new budget items for the Parish Council to consider.
- The budgets for 2024/25 are higher than the predicted income for 2024/25.

A new budget was included to part fund a PCSO for the village. This will be dependent on Uttlesford District Council and the Police having an available PCSO.

A new budget was also included to donate £3,500 to the Elsenham News. This will allow the magazine to continue to be published for another year.

Funds were set aside in the budget to install extra pathways in the children's play area. It can become very muddy in this area.

Funds were also set aside for Tye Green. The hamlet has experienced many problems last year with the pond, which belongs to the Parish Council, overflowing. A budget was allocated to a new Committee formed by the Parish Council for Climate Change & Environment.

An ear-marked reserve was created for the road and car parks in the playing field. Funds will be added to this reserve each year, so when the car parks or the road require resurfacing, hopefully there will be enough funds to pay for it.

The contribution from Elsenham Youth Football Club for the maintenance and using the Parish Council's land, was increased.

So that the Parish Council can continue to provide the services expected by residents, the Parish Council agreed a precept of £125,000 for the financial year 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025.

As January is always an exceedingly tough time for many families, the Parish Council donated £190 to Touchpoint.

District Councillor Petrina Lees said the Local Plan was on track. All the comments that people have submitted regarding the Local Plan are going to be tabulated by the District Council and then published with an answer.

The next Parish Council meeting will be Monday 5 February, 7.45pm in the Memorial Hall. All members of the public are welcome.

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In mid December we were disappointed to receive a letter from Michael Gove regarding the Local Plan. It told us nothing new –Uttlesford has not updated its Local Plan since 2005. The last submitted plan as you know, was unsound and not good enough to be tinkered with according to the Inspectors. We are along the road to rectifying this, having voted at full Council on October 30 to submit the draft for a full public consultation. Mr Gove and his team also know this, so the demand that we send him a timetable for submitting a Local Plan within 12 weeks is perplexing as that timetable (known technically as our Local Development Plan) was published months ago, and we were ready to send him a link to it within moments of receiving his letter demanding it!

We look forward to collaborating with all councillors through 2024 to refine and improve our Reg 18 draft plan into a stronger, better, and evidence-based Reg 19 final plan for us to vote on this coming summer. There will be opportunities over the coming months to see and consider all the consultation responses, as well as to explore in detail (and amend as necessary) policy chapters on vitally important issues like affordable housing, infrastructure, and biodiversity, as well as substantially reducing the housing site allocations once we know how many additional homes have been approved between April 2023 and April 2024, and can therefore come off our allocations target. All consultation responses will be published, and any questions will be answered and published.

We would like to thank you for your patience and understanding regarding our refuse collections. Crews have been dealing with a much higher than anticipated volume being left out for collection over the festive season. They have braced inclement weather and now crews have to travel to Braintree to empty their full trucks after Essex County Council moved the site from Dunmow, meaning it takes crews longer to get back on the road. Our crews continue to smile and have dog biscuits in their pockets.

Having an airport in the district, means that we have people fleeing real crisis in their home countries and land here in our District. It was an honour and a privilege for Petrina to attend a reception to thank the exceptional volunteers, community partners and community and public sectors who helped at the airport following the Ukrainian and Sudanese Crises. Eduard Fesko, the Ukrainian Ambassador, attended and gave a moving speech, about the realities of war. The compassion for our neighbours and the selfless work, time, and kindness that members of our district have demonstrated is something to be proud off.

We still have monies available from our Ward Initiative Fund.

Our councillors' Surgery this month will be held on Thursday February 22 at 6.30pm at OSCA, Crow Street, Henham.



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DEVELOPMENT DEVELOPMENTS

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



A detailed application was submitted in August last year to build 40 new homes in the field to the south of Rush Lane, just three weeks before the deadline of three years following the appeal decision which permitted the outline application. Little more was heard. Rumours of difficulties with the site access seemed to be confirmed with news at the end of November of a new outline application, this time with access from the turning head at the end of Robin Hood Road, rather than from Rush Lane. The developers have chosen to apply direct to the Planning Inspectorate under the 'S62A' provisions whereby Uttlesford are penalised by Government for inadequate performance.

Access from Rush Lane was difficult, but the proposed new access from the end of Robin Hood Road is surely worse, since the road is very narrow. It is proposed to widen the part nearest the railway, but leave the section nearest to Rush Lane, in order to preserve a venerable ivy-clad ash tree in the hedge. The idea is that there will be 'one-way working' over this stretch, with northbound traffic expected to give way. It is impossible to see how this arrangement could work, particularly when construction traffic is going to and from the site with the remorseless intensity typical of construction traffic when the development gets going.

I reported last year that the applicants are unfamiliar with the village. They have not used the interim to improve their knowledge. They have no idea that there are issues regarding road access - Grove Hill is unknown to them, which is no doubt why their estimates of cycling times to destinations in Stansted are hopelessly optimistic. They don't seem to have any idea of all the new housing in the village, and they assume that more new housing must necessarily be a good thing. They are unaware, or don't care, that this field is the last vestige of open space in the village, and they absurdly refer again to the patch of grass outside the Memorial Garden as the 'village green'. They think that the 7 bus goes from Stortford to the Airport and the 7A takes the reverse route. It is surely unfortunate if 'transport consultants' are unable to read a bus timetable. They are unfamiliar with Uttlesford's parking standards, and with the district's current five-year housing land supply, which is now over five years and should make a difference to the way the application is appraised. They seem to know nothing at all of the natural springs which anyone familiar with the area will tell you are to be found within the site. And the equipment suggested in the children's play area is modest to the point of non-existence.

Apart from that, there's not much wrong with it, really, and the application will probably be allowed by the Planning Inspectorate, on the grounds that Uttlesford does not have a Local Plan. The news there is that the 'Regulation 18' consultation is closed, and at some time in the future all the responses will be published with replies from the Local Plan team.

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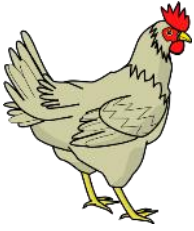
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Daisy May's Farm

Hall Road, Elsenham, CM22 6DN

First of all..... **HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

Well, 2023 whizzed by in a flurry of animal babies, train rides, lovely visitors, campers and mud!!!

Can you believe that we still have lambs being born and they are so cute, they simply must not be missed!

It is very muddy on the farm at the moment, so if you (or your children!!) love jumping in muddy puddles, then Daisy May's Farm is the place for you. Come on down!!

So, **get your wellies out** because you just know it's going to be muddy and come and enjoy the Woodland Trail, our arts and crafts, the play area, the Snack Shack, Ollies, train rides, but most of all.... **our lovely animals!**

Blow those cobwebs away with a visit to our farm and see all that has been going on over the winter and more importantly, what we have planned for 2024.

Please make sure you keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates and to see what is going on.

So once again, thank you so much for your support and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

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.

GARDEN HINT

By Sue Johnson

Prune autumn fruiting raspberry canes in February, cutting them right down to the ground.





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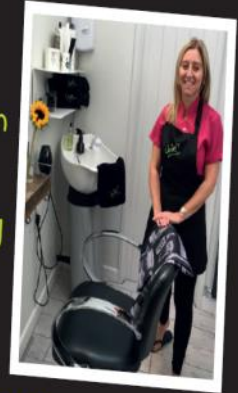
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EVERY TUESDAY IN ELSENHAM

WHAT IS THE TOUCHPOINT COMMUNITY FOOD SHARE?

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

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

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

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

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

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THE AUBREY BUXTON NATURE RESERVE

By John Welham, Warden

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

December saw wet and relatively warm conditions with hardly any frost. The three main ponds in the reserve are now full and all the other ditches and depressions are full of water, providing multiple locations for our frogs and toads to breed.

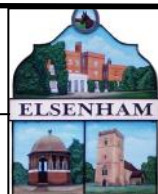
Given the number of frogs that were present in the reserve at the end of the summer I am expecting to see lots of frogspawn any time from the end of January or early February.

The saturated ground has led to a few trees being partially blown over in the high winds at the end of December and the volunteer group have been making these safe as well as laying a new anti-slip surface to the lower boardwalk.

Despite the damp conditions underfoot the reserve still offers a wonderful space to enjoy nature. It is a suitable time to look out for treecreepers as they are more easily seen without the foliage on the trees. These active little birds will be seen close to the bark, gradually working their way up the tree trunk in a spiralling climb, looking for insects, spiders and grubs.

ELSENHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

By Sue Waite



SAVE THE DATE - 17 February 2024

Elsenham Community Association would like you to put Saturday, 17 February, 2024 in your diary. We will be holding a Race Evening to raise much needed funds to build outside toilets near the Memorial Hall.

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

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

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

Volatile Fuel Prices Challenge by Ray Franklin

We all have witnessed just how rapidly fuel prices can change. The fuel price surge was driven by fears of an economic shock resulting from the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The price of crude oil rose which is used to create petrol. This high price was then rapidly passed on to consumers at the pump. The price of petrol combined with parking charges makes the cost of travel by car SO expensive. It is cheaper by BUS. **USE IT OR LOSE IT!**

Keeping warm this winter

citizens
advice

If you are worried about paying your bills and keeping warm this winter, energy specialists at Uttlesford Citizens Advice can help with:

- Fuel vouchers and emergency funds
- Access to food banks and children's clothes banks
- Benefits advice, including cold weather payments
- Money and debt advice, including debts to utility providers,
- Priority services register
- Home improvement grants and handyman services
- Energy efficient behaviours
- Home safety and fall prevention
- Community services, including transport and food delivery

It is important to know that **you don't have to be on benefits to access this support** - call 01799 618858 or email warmhomes@uttlesfordca.org.uk . Advice is always completely free and confidential.

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When and how to contact the Police

The Police are offering more ways of reporting non-emergency crime and anti-social behaviour through the digital 101 service on their website.

You can also use the service to contact your local policing team, tell them about something you have seen or heard, or request information.

They also have a Live Chat service, where you can send direct messages to a digital 101 operator Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) between 10am-9pm. They still have the 24-hour 101 service which people can call if they feel it is more appropriate to speak to them or don't have access to the internet.

Always call 999 if a serious offence is in progress or has just been committed, someone is in immediate danger or harm, property is in danger of being damaged, or a serious disruption to the public is likely.

If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use the textphone service 18000. Or text the Police on **999** if you've pre-registered with the emergencySMS service. British Sign Language (BSL) users please use their video relay service where an interpreter will help you report the crime.

If you're in danger but you can't talk on the phone, you should still call **999**, then follow the instructions below depending on whether you're calling from a mobile or a landline:

How to make a silent 999 call

If you're in danger, call 999 and try to speak to the operator if you can, even by whispering. You may also be asked to cough or tap the keys on your phone to answer questions.

Call 999 from a mobile

If you don't speak or answer questions, press 55 when prompted and your call will be transferred to the police. Pressing 55 only works on mobiles and doesn't allow the police to track your location. If you don't press 55 your call will be ended.

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

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ELSENHAM COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

By Frances Lambert ✉ flambert@btinternet.com



I am sending this request again as we need new people to help us. Please help keep your village safe from speeding drivers.

“SPEED CAN KILL”

How can **YOU HELP** to stop any accidents in Elsenham? Join the

Elsenham Community Speed Watch Team

Now that Spring and Summer is coming, and the weather should be warmer and drier this is a good opportunity for Elsenham residents to help with road safety in our village, and in doing so, reduce any road collisions and injuries to drivers and to any pedestrians that may get caught up in an accident.

Our village has become a race track. **Talk is not enough – Your action is required**

To become part of this major village speed reduction plan we need lots more volunteers of all ages (over 18) for the task. Why not ask your neighbours or friends, and go out together, or just go out with a member of the team once you are fully trained, and become part of the **“Elsenham Speed Watch Team”**

Full initial training will be given via Zoom, then roadside training on the use of our fully calibrated SL700 laser device, (as used by the Police) and then just a few hours a month operationally. **When you decide you are available.**



There is NO weekly or monthly commitment

Are you interested? Or need more information? Or you would like to come out with us, to see how it works before you say yes?

Every driver speeding is reported to the Police, they then send a letter out to the driver, and if necessary, pay them a visit if they discover the vehicle is not legal. So, it is worth an hour of your time to reduce the speeding in the village.

Please Call – Frances Lambert ☎ 07771 728 332 or email me as above.



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ELSENHAM VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

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



With the Christmas festivities behind us we are into the New Year and the start of the fifteenth year since the inauguration of our society in February 2010. One of the earliest bits of research, and one that is still ongoing, is the origins of the road and place names in and around the village. Some of the fruits of these labours follow.

Gilbey Cottages – after the Gilbey family of Elsenham Hall, the most renowned of all was Sir Walter Gilbey (1831-1914), long-time benefactor to this village and the surrounding communities.

Glebe End – was church land in use as allotments until built on circa 1977-79.

Gold Close – built on land that formed part of the Gold brothers' Nursery site. The Golds were connected by marriage to the Gilbeys.

New Road – built following the move of the railway station from Fuller's End in 1846/7. The road was built to give easy access for the nurserymen of Ugley Green to get their products to market.

Oziers – after the plot of land called by this name which presumably had osiers growing on it. It was part of Broom Farm. There was also a pond, now filled in, which had at least one willow tree growing beside it. The tree is still there.

Robin Hood Road – taken from the name of the Robin Hood public house which ceased to be licensed premises around 1988/89 and is now Fullers Court.

Rush Lane – was named after the Rush family of Elsenham Hall who were Lords of the Manor from 1783 to 1904. When the houses were built, the builder asked the primary school to research suitable names which they did with the help of Gordon Barker. The builder made the final choice of Rush Lane.

Saunders Close – named after Mr Saunders who had his bakery in the yard behind what is now the Post Office.

The Daisy – is the formal name for the Surgery in Station Road. Built in 1989, it was named after Mrs Daisy Robinson (d.2008) whose family of builders and funeral directors owned the land.

Our next meeting is on March 13 in the Memorial Hall and, as is now customary, will include our AGM. At a Committee meeting some time ago, we were discussing possible talks when we realised that we had never presented a talk about Elsenham. Nothing ventured, our Chairman Ray Franklin delved into his photo collection and has put together a "Potted History of Elsenham" that takes us from the 12th century to the present day in forty-five (and a bit) minutes. Ray is a very entertaining speaker so this will be a good opportunity to come along and see what we are all about.

Visitors are always welcome for a very modest two pounds but even better, membership costs just five pounds for a full year's meetings and this would be the perfect time to join. See you there?

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Samantha Allison
07944 044207

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ELSENHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

By Moyra Jackson ☎ 647351



As I am writing this in the first week of January, amidst the torrential rain and floods, it is not too late to wish you all a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year. Let's hope the weather improves by the time of reading this.

We have been busy over November and December making lots of handcrafted items for the pop-up shop we have in the Post Office. Many thanks to Mick and Lou at The Crown who have been hosting our Natter Nights; we could never have completed the ropes of poppies that were on the village sign, or the little army of gnomes we made, without their support. A huge THANK YOU to Karen and her amazing team in the Post Office for letting us display our items there and 'encouraging' customers to buy them.

The beginning of the year is an exciting time for us as we reveal our programme for the coming year to our members. Work started on this around 12 months ago with many of us attending various auditions for new speakers and visiting other WIs, pouncing on any speakers that would be suitable for us (we have very discerning tastes in Elsenham!). This year we have the pleasure of hearing about 'East End to Essex' with Sharon Gould, 'Guilty or not Guilty' with Philip McKinder and later in the year Richard Pusey will tell us about 'Suffragettes and the Endell Street Military Hospital.' For those interested in crafting we will have a Dabble Day to learn new skills, and the fabulous Angel Wings Shop will be coming along at the end of the year to put on a fashion show for us. That only touches the surface of what is on offer; as well as our monthly meetings we have our Natter Nights, Bookworms and Ladies Who Lunch. A new addition is our Ten Pin Bowling outings. So, all that is left to do now is get started on our 2025 programme!



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

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

Elsenham WI – There's a lot going on!



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ELSENHAM EAGLES

Elsenham Action Group for Local Environmental Sustainability

✉ elsenhams.action@btinternet.com



IT'S NOT LONG NOW!

By the time you read this there will only be a short while to go before

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

**Thursday 8 February 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall
Organised by Elsenham Eagles and Elsenham WI**

Becky Tomkins, waste and recycling officer at Uttlesford District Council (UDC), will be visiting Elsenham to talk to us. This is your opportunity to learn what happens to the recycling (and other waste) which is collected from our homes by UDC. It's also your opportunity to ask all the questions you have ever wanted to ask about what happens to our recycling (and non-recyclable items).

There will be an opportunity for you to recycle printer cartridges on the evening, so please bring any spent printer cartridges with you. You could also bring an article of potential recycling you are confused about. It's all completely FREE of charge and refreshments will be provided by the WI. We look forward to seeing you there.

More news about recycling

Did you know that the crisp packets which you recycle using the bin outside Petrina Lee's house (Orwell House on Station Road) are made into beads which are then made into benches and fence posts? The beneficiary is the Food Bank.

The beneficiary of recycled dental items is Essex Air Ambulance. It's all in the worthy causes of the Food Bank and the Air Ambulance as well as recycling the items and preventing them going to waste. So well done Elsenham residents, it's well worth keeping up the good work.

We have also found out that Golf World recycle their golf balls. So that's more good news!

Good news about wildlife: Spains Hall Farm, Finchingfield, is the home of the first beavers to return to Essex for over 400 years and the home of a biodiversity project.

Good news about trees: The Essex Forest Initiative (Essex County Council website) in 2019 committed to planting £1million worth of trees over the next five years. This will include planting 375,000 trees, over 150 hectares, equivalent to the size of 210 football pitches.

Toothpaste Tubes: Sadly the Terracycle scheme in Elsenham has ended. Over four years 153kg was collected and the funds raised went to the Essex Air Ambulance. Many thanks to Clare Hardy who transported the collections to Terracycle. Boots in Bishop's Stortford offer a recycling scheme and you can earn points while helping the environment.

We're looking forward to being able to share more good news with you in 2024 and, of course, we wish you a happy, healthy and peaceful new year.



The Hair Loss Clinic
North Hall Road, Ugley
07957 166436
www.hairlosslaserclinic.co.uk

The Hair Loss Clinic is a company set up to provide information, advice, support and above all solutions for people experiencing hair loss. Not only do we provide realistic and workable solutions to those suffering from hair loss but we are also specialists in after and on-going care for hair loss, giving you the very best support. We can help you through your journey from hair loss through to aftercare if your hair grows back. We provide a personalised service and will recommend the course of treatment or other solutions most appropriate to you.

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

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

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

Whatever the cause of your hair loss or the extent of the hair loss, we are here to help you.

Elsenham Bowls & Social Club

Saturday 24th February 7 pm

WHIST DRIVE

Entry just £2 per person

To reserve your place call:

Trevor Hackett 07445 437437

or E-mail:

trevorhackett01@yahoo.co.uk



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(See inside back cover for details
on rates.)

HENHAM AND DISTRICT GARDEN SOCIETY

By Moyra Jackson

Interested in Gardens and Gardening?

Why not come along to the Henham & District Garden Society – this society has been going for over 40 years and we have been meeting at the Memorial Hall in Elsenham for a number of years now. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 2pm and have a mix of speakers and outings to some fabulous gardens.

This year's programme includes talks on French Gardens and Nature through the Seasons and our outings in 2024 are to Bressingham, Helminghall Hall and RHS Wisley. We also have a Spring Show, which is always good fun and has us searching through our gardens to find something suitable!

One of the best things about the Garden Club is the wealth of local knowledge on gardening that our members have, and they are always willing to share their experiences.

Our first meeting of the year is on Tuesday February 6 and you can come along as a visitor for £5 or join for the year for £20, which includes reduced rates on our outings.

You can find us on Facebook or give me a call on ☎ 07765 000807 for more information.

From The Parish Registers

A Service of Thanksgiving at Elsenham Church on 3 January 2024, Roshan Banatvala, aged 89 years, formerly of Church End, Henham.

A Service of Thanksgiving at Elsenham Church on 17 January 2024, Margaret Rose May Sucking (Peg), aged 91 years, formerly of Hargrave House, Stansted.

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

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

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

ST MARY'S CHURCH ELSENHAM

Office@heuchurch.co.uk

Thought For The Month by *Louis Wilson*

Another year, another BBC Sports Personality of the Year. 2023 saw the 70th edition and completed a hat-trick of women as Mary Earps followed previous winners Beth Mead and Emma Raducanu (two footballers and a tennis player).

As a nation we love sport (especially watching it) so at our recent Christmas Morning Service, we considered an unlikely theological question: If God were a sportsman, what sport would he play?!

Cricketer Stuart Broad took second place in the award this year, and a cricketer last won in 2019 (Ben Stokes). Perhaps if God played sport, he'd be a cricketer.

But think about what happens in cricket: the batsman tries to hit the ball; the bowler tries to get you out; and the fielders try to catch you out. Some people think that's what God is like: trying to catch us out. But it's not true. God made this world and he loves what he has made. He's not trying to get us out.

So it seems God is not a cricketer! What about tennis? The players serve. They return. The Bible says that Jesus came to serve and that one day he will return. Maybe God would be a tennis player. Or maybe he'd play football. One person shoots, somebody else saves. Jesus came to save. His name means God saves. Maybe God would be a footballer.

But just once in 70 years a sport has produced a winner of Sports

Personality of the Year.

The clue in is John's Gospel chapter 1, verse 12. Speaking about Jesus, John says: *to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.*

I wonder if you can think of a sport where someone wants to pass you something, and you can pick it up. In fact, you have to receive it almost like a present, a gift.

The sport is rugby (and its only winner was Jonny Wilkinson 20 years ago). You see, God has something that he wants to pass to us: the right to be his child. The Bible says that we are not his children by right of birth: his creatures yes, but not his children. To be his child is something he must pass to us, and it is something he yearns to pass to us.

And it is something we must receive as a gift or a present. And receiving God's pass means to believe in Jesus. In the Bible, to believe is to trust something enough to let it change your life. The gift God wants us to receive is Jesus. And when we do that, when we believe in his name, there is this incredible promise that we will become children of God: Children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God - a permanent, miraculous, wonderful change of status.

I have absolutely no authority for this at all....but if God were a sportsman, perhaps he'd play rugby. I wish you a very Happy New Year.

CHURCH EVENTS IN OUR VILLAGES FEBRUARY 2024

Church Services

Sunday 4th February

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

Sunday 11th February

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

Wednesday 14th February

- 11:00** Ash Wednesday Prayer Book
Communion Service, Ugley
Church

Sunday 18th February

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

Sunday 25th February

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

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

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

Other Regular Events

SUNDAYS:

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

(Y1-Y6) Starts at EVH then on to
Old Frank's, Elsenham, 10.15am
Sundays: 11th

Pathfinders (Y6-Y9)

HUSCH*, Henham 6.00pm - leave
from service to meet in the Church
Hall, Henham. Sundays: 4th & 11th

Crammin' (Y10-Y13)

HUSCH*, Henham 6.00pm - leave
from service to meet at OSCA,
Henham. Sundays: 4th & 11th

MID-WEEK AND SATURDAY:

Start the Week with Prayer

Church Hall, Henham 9.30am
Mondays: 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th

Seekers After School Bible Club

(Y3-Y4) Old Frank's 3.20pm
Mondays: 5th, 12th & 26th

Christian Play (Y1-Y2)

Rowan House, Elsenham 3.15pm
Tuesdays: 6th & 13th & 27th

Little Fishes Pre-School Group

Church Hall, Henham 10.30am
Thursday: 1st, 8th, 15th & 29th

Little Fishes Pre-School Group

Elsenham Memorial Hall 10.00am
Fridays: 2nd, 9th & 16th

Church Lunch Club

Elsenham Memorial Hall 12.30pm
Fridays: (2nd & 4th Friday of the month):
9th & 23rd

Afternoon Tea

OSCA, Henham 2.00pm
Saturday: 17th

~~VAI~~ PALENTINE'S DAY
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THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

By Ken McDonald, Secretary

 www.hundredparishes.org.uk



The Society's website has been updated although it retains the same name (url) as above. The most significant change is the addition of a section called Articles. This section consists of about 80 pages and offers a window onto more aspects of the Hundred Parishes, complementing the existing introductory pages to parishes, walks, people, what's on, and so forth.



The Articles section comprises a series of short essays on a diverse range of subjects ranging alphabetically from Almshouses to Workhouses. This expansion of the website has provided an opportunity to include some 600 additional photos.

We like to receive feedback, whether that be to report a problem, expand our knowledge, or perhaps just to express an opinion on what the Society is doing or could do.

We hope you will take a fresh look at the website, and will find something of interest and perhaps inspire you to investigate further, either online or better still on foot, following one of our suggested walk routes.

BROWNIES NEWS

By Jennifer Jarvis (Leader)

 07900 123917  elsenhambrownies@outlook.com



I will be stepping down from all my guiding commitments at the end of June this year, after 37 years of various roles in units, district, division, and county. So now it is the time for me to hopefully hand over to someone else

We are a thriving unit with a waiting list, and it would be very sad if we had to close in the summer. Are you that someone who'd like a new challenge and interest? You will be rewarded by becoming part of the wider guiding family, making new friendships, seeing girls flourish from shy individuals to confident young ladies, ready to take on the world.

Brownies these days have moved with the times and now enjoy a variety of new badges, including Aviation, Space, Zero Waste, Inventing, Jobs, Speaking Out and many, many more. Girls experience an array of skills, themes, outings, in fact anything they are willing to try we can normally arrange.

So, if you think you're up for the challenge please contact me and hopefully the girls will continue to have a unit to attend come September.

It has been a huge privilege to have served my community for so long and brought so much joy and experiences to so many young girls.



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NEWS FROM STANSTED FIRE STATION

☎ 01376 575830

✉ stanstead.oc@essex-fire.gov.uk



Hello and Happy New year to all our readers. We hope everyone had a fantastic time over the festive period.

The team at the Station have been busy over the period responding to emergencies, training and even running their own Christmas open evening and market which was a huge success.

Over the Christmas period the team assisted with the putting up of the Elsenham Christmas tree which was a fantastic morning helping all the local volunteers.

The wet weather and wind has caused the crew to respond to a variety of incidents. The station, in the midst of Storm Henk early in the New year, was extremely busy and was even at one point called back to our own station after a concerned resident reported a tree with the potential to be hazardous on our own station ground, The crew closed the area and were thankful to TTMC for coming out as an emergency and taking the tree down safely.

The crew have also been attending a lot of incidents involving cars being stuck in flood water and would like everyone to take note of the below safety statement.

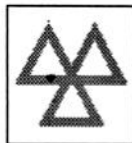
- Keep an eye on weather reports for flooding in your area. Do not travel in heavy rain unless absolutely necessary.
- Do not ignore road closed signs
- Never attempt to cross or drive through floodwater if you don't know how deep the water is. Just two feet of water will float a car.
- Never try to swim through fast flowing water or floodwater – you may get swept away or be injured by an object in the water.
- Don't assume fords are safe to cross just because the road is not closed. Always look at the river level gauge and use your common sense.
- Floodwater may be contaminated. Never allow children or pets to go near or play in floodwater.
- Prepare a flood kit in case your home floods or you are trapped in a vehicle for any period. This should contain a change of clothing, wellies, waterproofs and blankets as well as a torch, charged mobile, medication and a first aid kit and a list of useful numbers, including flood alert lines.

Stay safe and best wishes from Stansted Fire Station.

[Stansted Fire Station | Facebook](#)

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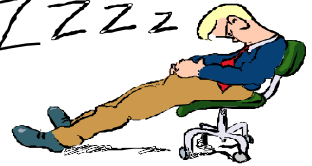
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TOUCHPOINT FOOD SHARE

"Touchpoint" Community Food Share came to Elsenham in 2021. It is held at the Elsenham Bowls Club on Tuesday mornings, 9.30 - 10.30 am. The Bowls Club are happy to give FREE use of the Club House to help aid the community.

So, what is Community Food Share? It is all about reducing food waste, they distribute produce which supermarkets otherwise dispose of but is still perfectly good to eat. They work with local supermarkets and some smaller outlets to collect food and invite ALL to collect what they want FOR FREE.

They have distributed the equivalent of more than 160,000 meals and are reaching over 1,500 persons every week in our area. In addition to regular food shares in Elsenham, Stansted and Saffron Walden they have recently held pop-up shares in Birchanger and Takeley.

They recently took delivery of their new van; the funding came from the "UK Shared Prosperity Fund." The graphics which adorn the van were done by Rich at Raven Graphics. You may see it being driven around by one of the many volunteers. The entire organisation is run by volunteers. I am proud to be just one of many. They want more helpers, why not ring 📞 07572 114882.

ELSENHAM COMMUNITY CHOIR

Did you know that singing can promote self esteem, build self-confidence, support social skill development, promote social inclusion, engage the emotions and most importantly, enable people of all ages to come together to meaningfully create something wonderful?



It's the New Year, so hey, why not try something new? Come and join us the first and third Tuesday of every month at 7.00pm until 8.30pm in Elsenham Village Hall.

There are no auditions at our choir, just laughter, friendship, chocolate in the break and we even manage to squeeze in a bit of singing!!

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

Everyone is very welcome.

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U3A STANSTED

Eileen Quinn

✉ stanstedu3a@gmail.com 🌐 www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted



A chilly and rainy winter day did not keep a large hall full of u3a members from their monthly meeting where Ray Clark gave a talk; 'Stay tuned - I could say something brilliant at any moment', a familiar catch phrase many will recognise. Ray's subject was the rebellious and exciting broadcasting of Pirate Radio and Radio Caroline in particular, where he worked for many years. Enthusiasm for the music drove him and the other presenters to tolerate cramped conditions out on the choppy sea as his fascinating slides demonstrated. Please do check the details of the 2024 monthly talks on the u3a website. There really is something to interest everyone.



The poetry group recently enjoyed sessions on Maya Angelou and John Keats then in December the theme was celebrations from different cultures. 2024 promises more intriguing poetry and discussion including sessions on Elizabeth Barrett-Browning and Sylvia Plath to be prepared by members of the group. The group meets locally on the first Thursday of each month in the afternoon and welcomes anyone with an interest in poetry and life - if that sounds a little po-faced know that Pam Ayres has been a regular choice!

The u3a Singers were welcomed back to the Hadham Country Club once again for their Christmas performance which was enthusiastically received by the audience - such that they have been booked for Christmas 2024 already! New members are welcome and details can be found on the website

For their Christmas celebration The Bus Pass group stayed relatively close to home by journeying to Saffron Walden. This intrepid group have further intriguing destinations in store for 2024 so think about making extra good use of your bus pass in friendly company.

For details of these and many other u3a groups held in the Stansted area please visit the website: www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted

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NATURAL OUTLOOK

By Heather Salvidge ☎ 814153

This seems to be a wet and stormy winter, the named ones starting with Storm Babet and more until storms Gerrit and Henk came just after Christmas. At a guess, there's more to come. Otherwise there has been sub-zero temps, night or day for frost, fog, or temperatures warm enough to bring out the odd garden butterfly. However, on a clear day there should still be daylight around at 5pm!



On a good morning walking up to get the paper there is bird song, once there were three regular thrushes on the station singing, By the car park across from 'Durnsford', then by Ridley Gardens or in the opposite hedge and then somewhere by the surgery. As well, there was at least one robin, on or around the tall tree in Alcuin's garden or in the whitebeams nearer the station. Not so usual now but often one and a great tit too. More recently still, sometimes a song thrush now sings in the long back gardens of the three first houses by Hunters' Court or round the corner in the New Road gardens, including ours! Lovely.

On the way back with the paper I have been known to check the playing field and sometimes get lucky as I have seen some redwings on the far side, starlings, a crow and two magpies. Another time, I was there as the sun went down and using my spare binoculars saw a magpie, two corvids, two starlings and about 80 redwings which were scattered all over the top and north side!. Also, the Stansted Road red kite often flaps over The Spinney and the playing field so another bird to look out for.

In our own garden we sometimes, but not always, get a lot of avian visitors. Last year a wren was here for a while, trilling away front and back in the hedges and otherwise the list for the day was wood pigeons, dunnocks, chaffinches, great tits, blue tits, jay, magpie flying low across to next door, coal tit, goldfinches, greenfinches, a male blackbird, robin, sparrows and a collard dove – over the years the best daily total for species has been 17.

One or two fellow villagers let me know if they have had an unusual visitor; for instance there was the cock pheasant who strutted around a Glebe End garden; the little egret which landed in the Mill's garden and strolled past the house to the Stansted Brook; the brambling which was seen at Tye Green for the first time when I hadn't seen one here for two years; then the two different times when small skeins of Canada Geese flew over going NNE. All good to know about.

If you go to Hatfield Forest for a walk at this time of year it is wise to check to see when it will be open and for how long. On the lake you will probably see, for instance, coots, Canada geese and, just maybe, a pair of grey lags, black headed gulls with just a dull spot on their heads and mallards in moult. In the park I've seen jackdaws, redwings, mistle thrushes and their 'look-a-like' fieldfares. Worth the visit.

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THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

By Tricia Moxey, Trustee

www.hundredparishes.org.uk



Chilly conditions often greet us as we step outside in the early months of the year. The old saying - "When the wind is out of the East, tis never good for man nor beast" - certainly rings true. Before the advent of broadcast weather forecasts, people had to rely on checking nearby weathervanes for the wind direction. These were usually found on tall buildings such as church spires, while Audley End House has gilded weathervanes mounted on eight corner turrets. Today, a variety of designs can be seen (see examples below).



Robert McFarlane's books of old words include about fifty that describe winds, storms or clouds. One Essex term he mentions is *aigrish*, used to describe a sharp cutting wind. The East Anglian word for a strong sudden gust is *gussock*, or *twitchy* for an unsteady wind.

Forecasting the weather for those who till the soil is helpful as weeks of westerly winds can bring relentless rain causing waterlogging of the ground, while cold easterly winds dry out the soil and retard growth.

Currently, the UK Meteorological Office operates over two hundred official automated sites, each recording accurate measurements of temperature, wind speed and direction, and the amount of precipitation. These readings are processed by powerful computers and the results enable forecasters to make predictions about future weather conditions. Local recording sites include the Cambridge Botanic Gardens and Stansted Airport. By searching the Met Office website <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk> you can check the local weather forecast to help plan your day.

Many individuals or schools are interested in operating a personal weather station and the Met Office is keen to enhance the weather observations network; it asks those who have a personal weather station, manual or automatic, to send data to its Weather Observations Website, WOW, at <https://wow.metoffice.gov.uk>.



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NEWS FROM ST MARY'S

By Roger Clark and Charles Willbe - Churchwardens



We have good news concerning the construction of an annexe in the north-west corner of the churchyard to provide toilets and refreshment facilities. In June we received planning permission from Uttlesford District Council and in December the Chancellor of the Chelmsford Diocese granted us a Faculty for the works. This is the Church's planning permission for construction at or near a church, and is the equivalent of Listed Building consent.

Since then we have received a report from a structural engineer, detailing the materials and technical details of the building. We have arranged an archaeological survey (this was a condition of the planning application). Sadly, there will not be lots of trenches dug across the site, the archaeologists will merely be on hand to observe when trenches are dug for the foundations and services in case anything of interest is uncovered. The Essex County Archaeologists suggest that there might be evidence of an Anglo-Saxon settlement in the area.

We are presently putting together the tender form to be sent to suitable builders and, once we have chosen the preferred contractor, we can plan a timetable of when the actual building work can be carried out. One feature of the design of the annexe is that it includes a toilet accessible from the outside. This will benefit visitors to the church outside of service times, and allotment holders. Exciting times indeed!

Meanwhile, we have been undertaking a number of repairs to the church building. Nearly one hundred roof tiles have been replaced and the gutters and down-pipes repaired and repainted. Much of the stonework has been re-pointed and the ferramenta (the ironwork that supports and protects the windows) has been restored. These are expensive repairs and we are enormously grateful to St. Mary's Fabric Fund for meeting the costs of the works.

Next on the list of jobs to be done is to replace the fence around the burial ground and effect repairs to the flint wall along the north and east sides of the churchyard. As you can imagine, a 900 year old building requires continuous maintenance and we benefit enormously from the work that has been previously carried out over the centuries to ensure that this 'little Norman gem' is in such good condition today.

MICHAELA DAVEY

passed away unexpectedly on 19 September 2023.

Dearly loved wife of Charles, and mother to Natasha, Matthew and Kristopher, she will be terribly missed.

A record of our farewell can be found at

MichaelaDavey.muchloved.com

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By Stewart Pimblett, Chairman ☎ 812359



Firstly, may I take this opportunity of wishing you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year. With the new year well under way we are already planning our fundraising activities for this coming year.

The church wardens this month have submitted an article on what has been happening at St. Mary's Church and what our future aspirations are so I will be brief in my report.

I would like to say a big thank you to all those who helped and contributed to the Christmas Tree Festival. It was a lot of hard work but well worth the effort as we enjoyed our best year ever. Without your support and kind donations we would find it hard to keep our beautiful and much loved Church in such good condition. It is very much appreciated.

Finally, a date for your diary. Our AGM will be held on March 19 at 7pm at Old Frank's. So, if you want to make some new friends and become more involved in doing something positive for our community, do come along and find out how you can help.

STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

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



Firstly we would like to wish you all a happy, healthy, and peaceful New Year.

After a very successful season in 2023 the club now looks forward to a special year – 50 years at our Stansted House ground. The club was founded in 1947 as Burton End Cricket Club playing in the grounds of Stansted Hall. However the club was forced to move ground in September 1973 due to the building of the M11. A pitch was offered to the club by the then owner of Stansted House, Brian Thornton. The first match was played at the ground in 1974 against a Robin Hobbs XI which included a young Graham Gooch. The club is fortunate that Patrick Hearne and his family moved into Stansted House in the 1980s – a cricket enthusiast.

Plans for celebrations are in hand and being finalised.

In the meantime the club will be entering a 3rd XI in the Herts & Essex Border League with matches being played at Molehill Green. We are also entering the Essex Matchplay U16 competition. Therefore we are looking for new players of all ages but especially U16 players who want to improve their cricket whilst playing against the best players in the county. Indoor nets begin in February. If you are interested in joining please contact me as above.



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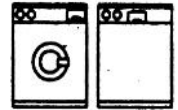


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ELSENHAM BOWLS AND SOCIAL CLUB


By Trevor Hackett

 07445 437437



We had an enjoyable pre-Christmas evening on Friday December 22 where 40 plus members enjoyed a social evening with a bring a plate buffet and where the Christmas raffle for champagne, chocolates, biscuits, and chocolate sprouts was drawn.

We had a fantastic “Elvis” night on January 12 with 60 people enjoying the King! During January we also held our first Quiz Night of the year. At the time of writing we only have three of the 10 available quiz tables available for the next quiz (scheduled for March 16).

Looking ahead to future events, we have a Line Dance evening on Saturday February 10 commencing at 7 pm. Tickets available from the bar or from me on  07445 437437 priced at only £2 each. It doesn't matter if you have never done line dancing before, beginners will be catered for. On February 24 we have a whist drive evening planned. Entry fee for this will again be just £2 per person.

On March 30 we have an excellent guitarist and former Beatles Tribute act member Paul Sharp covering music from the 60s onwards as well as Beatles numbers. The next music night will be a Neil Diamond evening on May 25. Tickets for both these acts will be just £6 each including nibbles.

The Crib league restarted after the Christmas break and our teams are back in action both at home and away on Tuesday evenings and the Darts continues on Wednesday evenings to the delight of all attending.


Short Mat bowling has now switched to Monday afternoons in the club house commencing at 2pm and any member, playing or social, is welcome to join in.

The Calendar for February is:

Bingo 3 & 17 - eyes down at 7.30 pm

Line Dance 10 with Cyndy Brown - 7pm start time - Beginners welcome

Whist Drive 24 - 7 pm start time

If you wish to join as a social or bowling member then either call in at the bar from 7 pm weekdays (except Mondays) or contact the Secretary Therese Clear on  07759 158859.

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

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ELSENHAM TENNIS CLUB

By Petra Studholme ☎814667



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

We have floodlights so club nights, lessons and members play are available in the evenings in winter!

We are offering half-price membership for all our subscriptions so full membership would be only £35, seniors £21.25 and under eighteen £8, for example. Other membership packages are also available for couples and the whole family. Please note that you won't see these half-price packages yet on our website, they will come online on 1st October, this is just a pre-announcement for those interested to join. You will get your own key to access the courts, can book online at your convenience and participate in our club events such as club nights, weekend or morning play sessions. **If you want to find out more about Elsenham Tennis Club, go to our website or find us on Facebook.**

Essex Small Club League matches

Men's: currently lying second in Division I.

Mixed: we unfortunately had to withdraw as we have too many injured players right now.

Looking forward to starting the winter season though.

Coaching – individual and group sessions

We have individual and group coaching sessions, Cardio run by our dedicated and experienced coach Steve Smith. Get in touch with him via email:

stevesmith865@hotmail.com ☎ 07790 561817. Please note that Cardio is open to non-members. Cardio is a great way to get or stay fit. Our coach's choice of music is sometimes questionable, but everyone is definitely having fun and is getting a great workout.

Rackets and balls

Steve has high quality rackets, reasonably priced for you to try before you purchase as well as Dunlop balls.

Hire our courts – open to non-members

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

Tennis Club Weekly Activities

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

Tuesday evening – 7.30pm club night

Wednesday morning – 10am causal play

Thursday evening – 6.30pm cardio tennis

(non members welcome)

Thursday evening – 7.30pm team practice sessions

Friday morning – 10am casual play

Sunday afternoon – 2pm casual play



The Team at Elsenham Farmers Market would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy, healthy and enjoyable New Year and we really look forward to seeing you at the Market in 2024!

The Market is now running 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 2024:

JANUARY 27

FEBRUARY 24

MARCH 30

APRIL 27

MAY 25

JUNE 29

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

You will be able to buy eggs, honey, flowers, homemade savouries, fish, British cheeses, local wild game, sustainable cleaning products, homemade fresh and natural juice shots, microgreens just bursting with flavour and we are constantly on the look out for more goodies.

Come along and enjoy our wonderful Market, and help support these local, fledgling businesses. All proceeds from the Market go to local charities.

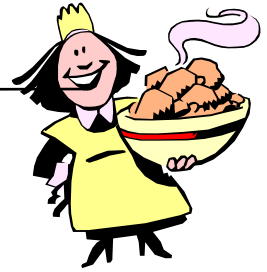
No charge for entry, just immerse yourself in all the gorgeous produce!

Best wishes

The Elsenham Farmers Market Team

COOKERY CORNER

By Sue Johnson ☎ 812704



If you like Jaffa Cakes, you'll love this moist cake!

JAFFA DRIZZLE LOAF (8-10 slices)

5oz (140g) butter, softened

8oz (200g) self-raising flour

1½ teaspoons baking powder

8oz (200g) golden caster sugar

3 large eggs

6 tablespoons milk

Finely grated zest of 1 large orange

For the topping:

3 tablespoons orange juice

2oz (50g) golden caster sugar

2oz (50g) plain chocolate, broken into pieces

Heat the oven to 180°C/fan 160°C/gas 4. Butter and line the base of a 1.2 litre loaf tin.

Put the cake ingredients into a bowl and beat with a hand whisk or wooden spoon for 3-5 minutes, until light and fluffy. Spoon the mix into the tin and level the top.

Bake for 40-50 minutes until golden brown and firm to the touch.

Meanwhile, heat the orange juice and sugar gently in a small pan, stirring until dissolved. When the cake is cooked, remove from the oven and spoon over the orange mix. Leave to cool in the tin, then remove and cool completely on a wire rack.

Melt the chocolate over a pan of simmering water. Drizzle over the cake and leave to set.

CHEF'S RECOMMENDATIONS: This cake will keep for up to a week in a cake tin. Alternatively, wrap in foil and freeze for up to 3 months.

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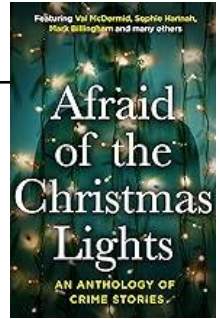
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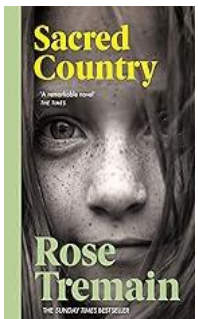
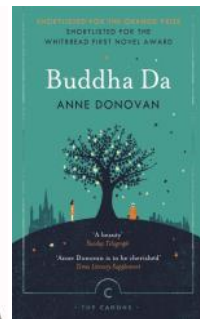
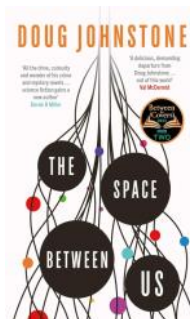
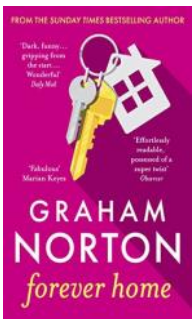
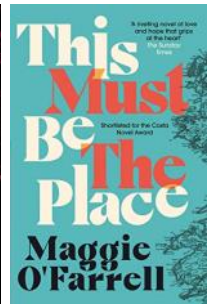
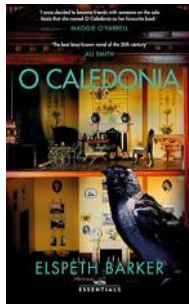
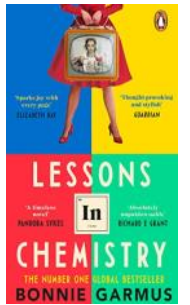
AFRAID OF THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS by Various
 Reviewed by Marion Giles for Elsenham Book Group



'IT WOULDN'T BE CHRISTMAS WITHOUT A LITTLE CRIME... A Christmas dinner takes a murderous turn, a friendship group loses the festive spirit, and a young girl goes to extreme measures to keep a beloved dog. Afraid Of The Christmas Lights is a collection of gripping, sometimes funny, and always festive short stories from a group of bestselling crime writers. From the hilarious to the macabre, there's something for everyone – whether you're a Christmas convert or a bit of a Grinch. From a detective tracking down missing Christmas geese, to a cat lady who goes on a date in order to keep Santa Paws well fed, this anthology is the perfect gift to cosy up with this year...' So says the blurb on the back of the book.

This was the choice of the book group for December. Our last book choice of the year and always something related to Christmas. This one is an anthology of short crime stories. All profits from the sales of the book went to support domestic abuse charities, ESDAS and Rights of Women.

The book group didn't select a book to read over the Christmas period so at our meeting in January, we talked about books we had read over the holidays. So there is no book group review this month. However, here is a reminder of the other ten books we read during 2023.



Editorial Information

Articles

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

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

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

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

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

General Notes

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

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

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

The editors' decision is final.

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

Subscriptions

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

Advertising

The costs are as follows:

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

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

To place an advertisement:

For any queries, contact Nathalie. 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
Nyaradzo Chabata
Angie Wenlock
David Newland**

Previous issues of Elsenham News are available on the ECA Website

www.ElsenhamCommunityAssociation.org.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS

UDC/WI/Eagles presentation on recycling & other rubbish February 8

ECA Race Night February 17

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

ECA AGM 14 March 7.30pm Memorial Hall

Bowls & Social Club Quiz 16 March 7.30pm

Good Friday Ramble 29 March

Beatles Tribute 30 March 7.30pm Bowls & Social Club

VILLAGE CONTACTS

Airport Roadside Parking		0800 731 2385
Beavers	1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com	
Bowls Club	Therese Clear	816535 or 07759 158859
Brownies	elsenhambrownies@gmail.com	
Church Office (Old Frank's, High St, Elsenham)	Anna Hicks	814285
County Councillor (Stansted)	Ray Gooding	813103
Cricket Club	David Brown	831011
Cub Scouts	1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com	
ECA (Chairman)	Allan Hathaway	813385
ECA (Secretary)	Moyra Jackson	647351
ECA Website	www.ElsenhamCommunityAssociation.org.uk	
Elsenham 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	foespata@hotmail.com
Guides elsenhamguides@gmail.com	Gemma Schafer	07792 572423
Henham & District Garden Society	Moyra Jackson	647351
History Society	Mike Rea evhs12@hotmail.co.uk	813634
Member of Parliament	Kemi Badenoch	0207 219 5214
Memorial Hall Bookings	Cheryl Rae	817834
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator	Frances Lambert	07771 728332
	franceslambertnhw@btinternet.com	
Parish Clerk - Louise Johnson	louise.epc@gmail.com	07456 791727
Elsenham Parish Council Website	www.elsenham-pc.gov.uk	
Police		101
Post Office		812175
Rainbows	elsenhamrainbows@gmail.com	
Scouts	1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com	
St Mary's Fabric Fund	Elizabeth Barker	813543
Tennis Club	Petra Studholme	814667
Tots & Toddlers	Dawn Temple	07944 841358
Uttlesford District Councillors	Petrina Lees	816675
(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.



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