

Elsenham News



The Pump Elsenham

elsenhamnews@hotmail.co.uk

February 2026

February 2026

Elsenham Village Regular Monthly or Quarterly Activities

Parish Council 1st **Monday** of month 7.45pm (excl. Bank Holidays) Memorial Hall
Elsenham EAGLES 4th **Monday** of month 7.30-9pm Bowls and Social Club
Henham & District Garden Soc. 1st **Tuesday** of month 2 for 2.30pm Memorial Hall
Community Choir 1st & 3rd **Tuesday** of month 7-8.30pm Village Hall
Natter Night 2nd **Tuesday** of month 7.30pm The Crown
Life Drawing 2nd and 4th **Tuesday** of month 7.30-9.30pm Village Hall
Village History Society 2nd **Wednesday** of month quarterly 7.45pm Memorial Hall
Women's Institute 3rd **Thursday** of month 7.45pm Memorial Hall
Church Lunch Club 2nd & 4th **Friday** of month 12.30pm Memorial Hall
Women's Wellness Breakfast Club last Friday of month 9.20am Bowls & Social
Elsenham Farmers' Market last **Saturday** of month 12.30 - 2.30pm Village Hall

February 2026 diary

Mon 2	Parish Council Meeting	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Tues 3	Henham & District Garden Soc.	Memorial Hall 2 for 2.30pm
Tues 3 & 17	Elsenham Community Choir	Village Hall 7pm
Wed 4	District Councillors' Surgery	Orwell House, Station Road Elsenham 6.15pm
Tues 10	Natter Night	The Crown 7.30pm
Tues 10 & 24	Life Drawing	Village Hall 7.30pm
Thurs 12 & 26	Community Supermarket	Memorial Hall 1.30-3.30pm
Fri 13 & 27	Church Lunch Club	Memorial Hall 12.30pm
Sat 14	Music Night	Bowls & Social Club 7.30 for 8pm
Thurs 19	WI	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Sat 21	Bingo	Bowls & Social Club 7 for 7.30pm
Mon 23	Elsenham Eagles	Bowls & Social Club 7.30pm
Fri 27	Women's Wellness Breakfast	Bowls & Social Club 9.30-11am
Sat 28	Farmers' Market	Village Hall 12.30-2.30pm



Mobile Library
Every third Saturday stopping at Glebe End
9.30am to 10am Next visits: 21 February 2026

Elsenham Village Regular Weekly Activities

Day	Time	Activity	Location
Monday	9.30-10.30am	Zumba	Memorial Hall
	10.30-11.30am	Health walk	Start at De Mandeville Green
	4-4.30pm	Rascals (3-4yrs)	Memorial Hall (term time)
	4.30-5.30pm	Rascals (5-7yrs)	Memorial Hall (term time)
	5.30-7pm	Rascals (8-12yrs)	Memorial Hall (term time)
Tuesday	9.30-11.30am	Village Café Coffee	Memorial Hall
	12.15-1pm	Touchpoint Food Share	Memorial Hall
	4.45-5.45pm	Rainbows	Memorial Hall (term-time)
	4.45-5.45pm	Beavers	Ugley Village Hall (term-time)
	6-7.15pm	Cubs (Wolf Pack)	Ugley Village Hall (term-time)
	6-7.30pm	Brownies	Memorial Hall (term-time)
	7.30-10.30pm	Tennis Club night	Tennis Courts
	8pm	Fitness Yoga/Pilates	Memorial Hall
Wednesday	9.45-11.30	Tots and Toddlers	Memorial Hall
	6.30-7.15pm	Women's strength and Mobility	Village Hall
	7-9pm	Scouts	Ugley Village Hall (term-time)
	7.30pm	Aerobics	Elsenham Village Hall
Thursday	9-10am	Teddy Bear Music	Memorial Hall (term-time)
	6-7.15pm	Cubs (Bear Pack)	Ugley Village Hall (term-time)
	6.45-7.45pm	Jump Fit	Elsenham Village Hall
Friday	10-11am	Little Fishes	Memorial Hall (term-time)
Saturday	8.15am-1pm	Tarte au Citroen	Playing Field
	8.45am-12pm	Youth boys & girls football	Playing Field
	9-11.15am	Forte Dance Class	Memorial Hall
	8.45-9.30am	Little Kickers Mighty	Village Hall (term time)
	9.35-10.20am	Little Kickers Junior	Village Hall (term time)
	10.25-11.10am	Little Kickers Tots	Village Hall (term time)



The Team at Elsenham Farmers Market would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy, healthy and enjoyable 2026; and we really look forward to seeing you at the Market soon!

The Market is always from 12.30-2.30pm on the last Saturday of every month, but just to make things easier, these are the dates for the first half of 2026: -

28th FEBRUARY
28th MARCH
25th APRIL
30th MAY
27th JUNE

We will have many of our fabulous regular sellers offering delicious sourdough bread, preserves, chutneys and oils, local meat, the most amazing barista coffee, moreish cakes and macarons and even your dog is catered for with homemade dog treats!

You will be able to buy eggs, honey, flowers, homemade savouries perfect for lunch, fish and yummy pies, British cheeses, wild local game, sustainable cleaning and personal hygiene products, indoor and outdoor plants, and we are constantly on the lookout for new and interesting sellers of consumable produce.

Make it your New Year's resolution to shop locally and help support these small businesses, and of course all proceeds from the Market go to local charities. No charge for entry, you just need to enjoy and immerse yourself in all the gorgeous produce!

Best wishes

Elsenham Farmers Market Team

THE NEWS REPORT

From The Editors



The year starts with all the usual post Christmas blues and the appalling weather only adds to that!

However, there is always something to lift the spirits. The Civic Achievement Award to Elaine Terry being just one of them. Elaine has, in the past, run the village fete, cooked for the lunch club, is involved with the farmers market and the choir - amongst other activities! Congratulations Elaine, and thoroughly deserved.

Also, we welcome the new Parish Council Clerk, Fiona Gardiner. We wish her all the best in her new role.

Sadly though Uttlesford District Council Planning (or lack of it) Department have a way of deflating us. Their poor performance at the recent appeal against yet more development in the village leaves one with nothing but utter disappointment. See page nine for more details.

But, as always here in Elsenham, there is much to look forward to. Throughout this issue our village organisations and associations have plans for the coming year that are bound to bring you some cheer. Everything from history to sports to gardening, you will find something to get involved with.

Whatever the year ahead has in store for you, we at Elsenham News wish you all the very best for 2026 and hope you will continue to enjoy being part of the Elsenham community.

Happy New Year!

The Editorial Team
Elsenham News

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ELSENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

By Fiona Gardiner, Clerk & RFO

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I would like to begin by extending my sincere thanks to the previous Parish Clerk, **Louise Johnson**, for her help and support during the handover period and wish her a very happy and well-deserved retirement.

Since starting in post, there have been several positive developments within the parish. We have successfully recruited a new litter picker, who will be helping to keep the village clean and tidy for everyone to enjoy. We would like to thank **Sandra** and **Bill** our previous litter pickers for the many years of hard work and wish them a very happy retirement.

The budget for the forthcoming tax year has now been set, providing a clear financial framework to support parish services and planned improvements. The Parish Council has been pleased to make **donations this year to Touchpoint, Essex & Herts Air Ambulance and Citizens Advice Bureau**, supporting the valuable work these organisations provide to our community and the wider area.

We have recognised the need for an additional clothes bank within the village, and arrangements have been made for this to be installed in the near future to better serve residents. Please see our Facebook page for updates on this. We would like to politely remind residents that **clothes banks are for clothing only**, and kindly ask that **waste items, toys, and other unsuitable materials are not left at or around the banks**. This helps keep the area tidy and ensures the service can continue to operate for the benefit of the community.

Progress has been made regarding the issue of water flowing down Hall Road. Highways have visited the site to investigate the problem and have already unblocked several drains. Further investigations have identified that additional work will be required on Church Lane, and a plan is currently being developed by Uttlesford Highways department to resolve this matter.

We have also seen the resignation of **Councillor Frances Lambert**, who will be moving to Norfolk. The Parish Council would like to thank Frances for her service and wish her all the very best for the future.

Finally, I would like to thank **Elsenham Parish Council** for the warm and supportive welcome I have received. I very much look forward to working with the Council and the community as Clerk.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 2 February at 7.45pm in the Memorial Hall. All residents are welcome.

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DEVELOPMENT DEVELOPMENTS

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



The Inquiry into the Appeal by Gladman against refusal by Uttlesford District Council's Planning Committee of the application to build 240 homes on the site to the north of Bedwell Road was held during the cold wet dark days of the start of December, in the uninspiring surroundings of Canfield Business Park (where Uttlesford store the bins). The outcome was equally depressing.

Noise from the motorway and also from the railway was the main issue. The first witness was UDC's noise consultant. Questioned by the barrister for his own side he was hesitant and uncertain, and any neutral observer would have feared the worst.

The afternoon session was even worse than the worst that could be imagined. Gladman's counsel tied UDC's witness up in knots and then pulled on both ends of the string. As with all consultants, he relied heavily on his models. Time and again, he was asked a question, he could see it was leading him somewhere he didn't want to go, there was a long - long - long - long - pause - and then, he answered, meekly, 'yes'. Eventually he agreed that the outdoor findings were such that it's not ideal. 'But is it so dire that it warrants rejection of the application? Less than ideal is not unacceptable', insisted counsel for Gladman - and the witness had to agree. Then they went painfully through the whole process again regarding the indoor findings, and came to the same conclusion. Counsel then said they'd reached that conclusion regarding both outdoors and indoors - 'where, then is your case?', he asked. 'Less than ideal is not unacceptable' - it's not a ringing endorsement, and is unlikely to feature in Gladman's sales material, but it sufficed for their purposes.

The next day, UDC requested an adjournment so that they could consult the bosses back at base, following which they announced that they were withdrawing all objections - not just on grounds of noise, but also regarding planning generally. Apparently if they had not done so, Gladman would have applied for costs on the grounds of unreasonable behaviour, with a fair chance of success.

The parish councils knew that UDC was committed to robust defence of the refusal of the application, and had sent along a volunteer councillor as 'interested person'. When UDC withdrew all objections, their barrister played no further part. The parish councillor was therefore charged unexpectedly with questioning Gladman's polished and practised sound consultant, who conceded reluctantly when challenged that the models by which he set such store could not possibly be a more accurate representation of reality than reality itself. Otherwise the consultant emerged predictably unscathed from the encounter. When he was asked why the open spaces, including children's play areas, are situated where the legend reads 'Noise - Area unsuitable for residential development', he replied that there are no criteria regarding noise levels for such areas in planning law.

The Inspector's decision is awaited. As UDC withdrew all objections, it must be very doubtful whether he will do other than allow the appeal.



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ELSENHAM VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

By Mike Rea, Secretary 813634 evhs12@hotmail.co.uk

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As I write these notes there is a light covering of snow lying on the ground to remind us that Winter is still with us albeit not as bad as some Winters past. Below is a cutting from the late Gordon Barker's scrapbook with a picture of Elsenham Station in 1963.



The caption explains all.



Russia? – no, Elsenham

It was a constant fight against the snow to keep the trains running. At Elsenham – the worst hit of local stations – drifts of up to twelve feet high threatened to disrupt the service. Men began clearing operations on Saturday afternoon and were still at work on Wednesday. Their task was made easier on Sunday when a snowplough from Cambridge helped to keep the line clear. Our picture above was taken on Sunday (20/01/1963).

From Herts & Essex Observer 25 January 1963 courtesy of Gordon Barker

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

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Session dates for 2025/2026

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

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

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

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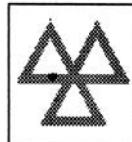
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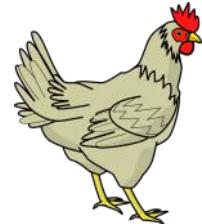
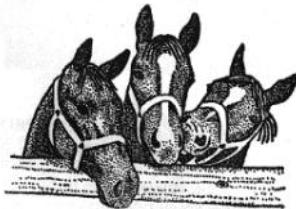
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First of all..... **HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

Well, 2025 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!

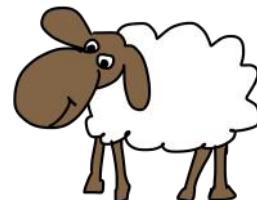
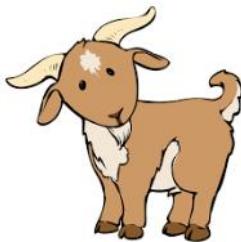
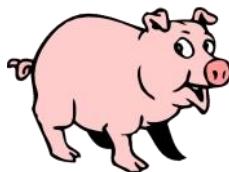
It is very muddy on the farm at the moment, so if you (or your children!!) love jumping in muddy puddles, then Daisy May's Farm is the place for you. Come on down!!

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 2026.

We are open every day, but 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.



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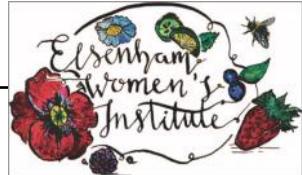
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By Moyra Jackson 647351



Happy New Year

I hope you all had a wonderful time over the Festive Season. It is so difficult to get back into a routine. I am just delighted to know what day of the week it is.

February can be a bit of a grim month weather-wise. If you need cheering up or just something new to do, why not come along to our WI. We have an excellent programme for 2026. The first few months look like this:

February 19th – The Story of Saffron Walden's Almshouses

March 19th – Fiona Rose tells us about “The Life and Designs of May Morris”

April 16th – Paul Read entertains with “Reach for the Stars”

As well as our monthly meetings and outings we have a walking group, a Cinema Club, a “Crafternoon” for our members. We also have a Natter Night on the second Tuesday of each month in the Crown. This is open to all who are interested or need help with crafts, or if you would just like to have a drink and a natter.

We are always happy to welcome visitors and new members so please come along, especially if you are new to the village. It really is a great way to get to know people and make friends. If that's not enough – there's always cake!



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

Elsenham WI – There's a lot going on!

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Elsenham Tots & Toddlers Group



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DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

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Happy New Year!

As we look back on the final month of 2025, December brought a welcome burst of positive news for Uttlesford. From new homes and community recognition to cultural highlights and green initiatives, there's plenty to celebrate as we head into 2026. Looking ahead, December's developments reflect a council investing in homes, culture, sustainability and, above all, its people. These positive steps set a hopeful and energising tone for 2026. Here's to a year of community strength and shared progress.

Cultural Spotlight: Saffron Walden Museum Shares New Stories

Saffron Walden Museum closed the year on a cultural high by launching its brand-new podcast series. The first episode opens the doors to some of the museum's most fascinating collections, exploring the stories and people behind them.

You can listen here: www.saffronwaldenmuseum.org/get-involved/podcasting.

The museum continues to be a jewel in Uttlesford's crown, a place where heritage, curiosity, and community come together. This new digital venture allows even more residents to enjoy its treasures, whether from the comfort of home or on a winter walk.

Celebrating Community Achievement

Dozens of dedicated volunteers were honoured at this year's Community Achievement Awards, held on Wednesday 26th November. Thirty individuals were recognised for giving countless hours to support local people, clubs, and projects across the district. Each recipient received a certificate after their inspiring stories were shared with the audience, stories of generosity, personal sacrifice, and a shared commitment to strengthening community life.

Petrina, Chair of the Community Achievement Awards Working Group, stated at the ceremony: -

"We are fortunate to have so many caring individuals who dedicate their time to helping others. This celebration is about recognising the extraordinary impact volunteers have every day — their generosity and spirit inspire us all."

Among the awardees was **Elsenham's own Elaine Terry**. Her nomination highlighted more than just her formal roles in the village. It stated that Elaine never seeks praise or recognition. Her focus is always on creating opportunities for others to contribute and on fostering the spirit of togetherness that makes a village feel like home. She is, in every sense, a "good egg" and an invaluable asset to our community. Well done Elaine — a true representation of village spirit and community pride.

Continued on the next page

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Continued from previous page

New Affordable Homes for Local Families

A major December highlight was Uttlesford District Council's plan to purchase 14 brand-new homes for social rent in Great Dunmow. This thoughtful investment includes a range of one - to four-bedroom homes in a wider development near St Edmunds Lane and Braintree Road. With many local families currently on the housing waiting list, these homes represent a meaningful step toward meeting real need. Construction is expected to begin soon, ensuring more residents will have access to secure, high-quality, affordable housing. In addition, the council's planning application for new homes in Takeley will be presented early in the new year, a clear indication of continued commitment to expanding social housing across Uttlesford.

Start the New Year Greener: Free Food Recycling Starter Packs

Why not make 2026 the year you help both yourself *and* the environment?

Recycling food waste is one of the easiest ways to reduce your carbon footprint, and getting started has never been simpler.

Across the UK, millions of tonnes of food waste end up in general rubbish every year, despite the potential to turn this waste into green energy and nutrient-rich compost. By recycling your peelings, leftovers and scraps, you're helping reduce landfill and contributing to a cleaner, greener future.

To support households, Uttlesford District Council is offering **Free Food Recycling Starter Packs** designed to fit seamlessly into daily life, making food recycling quick, clean, and fuss-free.

Starter Pack A – Everything You Need

- 23-litre outdoor food recycling bin
- 7-litre indoor kitchen caddy

One-off roll of compostable caddy liners

Starter Pack B – For Indoor Use

- 7-litre kitchen caddy
- One-off roll of compostable caddy liners

Good News and Support for Residents – February

As we move into February, there's plenty of positive news to share from Uttlesford District Council, along with a reminder of the support available to residents across our communities.

Warm Spaces and Cost-of-Living Support

Winter can be a challenging time for many, but the council continues its commitment to helping residents through the Warm Spaces initiative. Local community centres, libraries, and parish venues listed on the council's website are offering free, welcoming places to stay warm, enjoy a cuppa, and meet others. For those facing rising household costs, financial advice and hardship support are also available.

Continued on the next page



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Continued from previous page

You can find details about help with energy bills, housing, and council tax by visiting www.uttlesford.gov.uk or calling the Resident Support helpline on 01799 510510.

Council Tax Reduction and Housing Assistance

Residents on a low income or who have recently experienced a change in circumstances may be eligible for Council Tax Reduction or housing benefit support. The council's friendly team can help you check your eligibility and guide you through the application process.

Good News for the Environment

The council is pleased to report strong progress towards its climate action goals. Recycling rates in Uttlesford remain among the highest in Essex, thanks to your efforts to separate waste and reduce landfill. Work is also under way to plant more native trees across the district this month as part of the '**Greener Uttlesford**' initiative.

Support for Local Communities

Community grants are open for parish groups and local charities delivering projects that improve wellbeing, the environment, or local services. Applications for the next round of **Community Project Grants** close at the end of February, so now is the perfect time to get involved and make a difference locally.

Stay Informed

Keep up to date with local news and council updates by subscribing to the Uttlesford District Council e-newsletter at www.uttlesford.gov.uk/keep-me-posted or by following the Council on social media. Together, our parish and district continue to show real community spirit — supporting one another and working toward a brighter year ahead.

Celebrating Community Achievement

Dozens of dedicated volunteers were honoured at this year's Community Achievement Awards, held before Christmas. Thirty individuals were recognised for giving countless hours to support local people, clubs and projects across the district.

Petrina, chair of the Community Achievement Awards Working Group, stated at the ceremony, '*We are fortunate to have so many caring individuals who dedicate their time to helping others. This celebration is about recognising the extraordinary impact volunteers have every day; their generosity and spirit inspire us all.*'

Among the awardees was Elsenham's own Elaine Terry. Her nomination highlighted her formal roles in the village but also stated:
'Elaine never seeks praise or recognition. Her focus is always on creating opportunities for others to contribute and on fostering the spirit of togetherness that makes a village feel like home. She is in every sense, 'a good egg', and an invaluable asset to our community.'

Well done Elaine, a true representation of village spirit and community pride.

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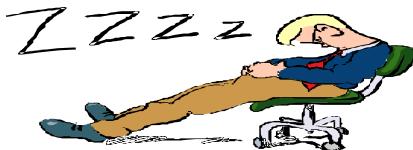


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Ray's Reflections

反思



THE HENHAM AND ELSENHAM SCOUTS

Scouting began in 1907 with Lord Baden-Powell taking a small group of boys to Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour.

Although records of local Scouts go back to 1991, there was certainly a village troop prior to that. The 1991 record is when Elsenham joined Henham to become the **1st Henham and Elsenham Scout Group**.

In July 1922 there were twelve Elsenham scouts. Over the years there have been countless numbers of leaders and it would be impossible to mention them all. There is still a thriving Henham and Elsenham Group and there have been plans to reopen a truly Elsenham Group. All that is needed is the volunteers to run it.

Please contact Matt Morland, Volunteer Group Lead on
☎ 07423620120, ✉ 1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com,
if you would like more information.

*Ray
Felicity*

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

By Felicity Savage

World Day of Prayer is a global service held on the first Friday of March each year in more than 120 countries starting in Samoa and finishing 38 hours later in American Samoa.

Join with people from Henham, Elsenham and Ugly churches at 2.00pm on Friday, March 6 in the New Hall at Henham Church for an informal service followed by refreshments.

Each year the service is prepared by Christian women from a different country. This year the women of Nigeria have prepared a service with the theme "I will give you rest, come" based on Matthew 11:28-30. The service speaks to our need for peace and solace, drawing on their faith and experiences in a world filled with struggles and anxieties.

Everyone is welcome.

ST MARY'S CHURCH ELSENHAM
Office@heuchurch.co.uk
Thought For The Month by Louis Wilson

Apparently, far and away most New Year's resolutions have to do with our bodies. We see them in the mirror and want to improve them. Or we feel them holding us back and want to move them more effortlessly and enjoyably. Or we just don't have the straightforward, ailment free health that we once had.

It need not be vain or shallow to make resolutions about our bodies. Christian theology does not separate the soul and body, and pretend that only the soul matters. Christians believe that the body counts. "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?" Your body really matters. "So glorify God in your body" (1 Corinthians 6: 19-20).

A new book has just come out called A Little Theology of Exercise, and here are a couple of different ideas which I thought were helpful.

First, do something. So many twenty-first century jobs (including mine) are sedentary. We peck away at computers, rather than lifting, moving, pulling, or hoisting. If your day job keeps you active, great. But otherwise, most of us need to supplement our work life with some modest physical movement to get us to normal human levels of activity.

However, loads of us (including me) get stalled by trying to find the perfect solution. So the suggestion is, don't let uncertainty or perfection paralyse you. Don't wait until you have the perfect plan. Start something. Walking counts. Could I walk at a moderate pace for fifteen minutes a day? That might be a great start and a good holding pattern until there's clarity about what's next.

Second, expect setbacks. Everyone who sets out to exercise will encounter some physical setback, even if it's just aches and pains. None of us have perfect bodies yet, and some experience more hindrances to exercise than others. Part of glorifying God in our bodies for now includes navigating the many effects of living in a fallen world, being faithful to God in the body he has given us, and resisting the temptation to compare ourselves to others.

Third, be ready to do good to others. It's tempting to let your new exercise regime become an end in itself. So we need to ask ourselves: Why am I working out to begin with? Is it not at least in part to be ready and able to help others? Twice the apostle Paul says words that could sit like a banner over our efforts to train our bodies: "ready for every good work" (2 Timothy 2:21 and Titus 3:1).

As (hopefully) my heart, lungs and muscles get stronger, does that make me more eager to get off the settee, climb stairs and leverage my improved body to bless and help others? As my exercise programme continues, I could check to make sure that training my body is enabling me to be a more loving person, rather than becoming an excuse to be more selfish.

I'd certainly like to exercise more! Happy New Year,

Louis

CHURCH EVENTS IN OUR VILLAGES FEBRUARY 2026

Church Services

Sunday 1st February

10:30 All Together All Age Service, Elsenham Village Hall
18:00 Sunday@6, Henham Church

Sunday 8th February

08:45 Prayer Book Morning Prayer, Elsenham Church
10:00 Morning Service, Ugley Church
10:30 Morning Praise Service, Henham Church
18:00 Sunday@6, Henham Church

Sunday 15th February

08:45 Prayer Book Communion, Elsenham Church
10:00 Prayer Book Holy Communion, Ugley Church
10:30 Morning Praise Service Elsenham Village Hall
18:00 Sunday@6, Henham Church

Sunday 22nd February

08:45 Prayer Book Morning Prayer, Elsenham Church
10:00 Morning Service, Ugley Church
10:30 Morning Praise Communion, Henham Church
18:00 Sunday@6, Henham Church



For further details on everything going on at Henham, Elsenham & Ugley (HEU) Churches, visit www.heuchurch.org

Other Regular Events

SUNDAYS:

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

Leave Morning Praise Service

10:30am. Sundays: 8th, 15th & 22nd

Pathfinders (Y6-Y9)

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

Sundays: 1st & 8th

Crammin' (Y10-Y13)

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

Sundays: 1st & 8th

MID-WEEK AND SATURDAY:

Start the Week with Prayer

Old Frank's, Elsenham 9.30am

Mondays: 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd

Seekers After School Bible Club

(Y3-Y4) Old Frank's 3.20pm

Mondays: 2nd, 9th & 23rd

Christian Play (Y1-Y2)

Rowan House, Elsenham 3.15pm

Tuesdays: 3rd, 10th & 24th

Little Fishes Pre-School Group

Henham New Church Hall 9.15am

Thursday: 5th, 12th & 26th

Little Fishes Pre-School Group

Elsenham Memorial Hall 10.00am

Fridays: 6th, 13th & 27th

Church Lunch Club

Elsenham Memorial Hall 12.30pm

Fridays: (2nd & 4th Friday of the month): 13th & 27th

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

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Don't we just hear those words "so much more" too often, finding little to justify raising such expectations. In the case of the u3a there is truth in that claim because there are another 37 groups apart from the three named above, not counting the talks and visits also on the menu for 2026. Have a quick read here about two recent group meetings, but be sure to look at the website

✉ stansted.u3asite.uk/ for 10 minutes to see what is on offer. Alternatively, call ☎ 07847385541 for more information.

At the last Saturday Seminar of 2025, retired Art History teacher, Joanna Brooks, took her audience on a densely packed tour of Titian's life and achievements. Supported by detailed and specific visual examples of her points, Joanna demonstrated the achievement of the sixteenth century artist, Titian, in the innovative way he took up the new medium of canvas, just available in Venice. His art achieved greater emotional impact as his technique shifted from delicate brushstrokes to a looser style, even using his fingers directly to apply paint to the canvas, creating a variety of seminal masterpieces.

2026's Saturday Seminars promise yet more compelling content on 21st February when prominent British Historian Dr Helen Fry will give a talk on 'A Very Secret War: Bugging the Nazis in WWII'. It's sure to be a captivating presentation by a highly experienced author and broadcaster.

The Poetry for Pleasure group also ended 2025 on a high note. The last two sessions included fun and giggles over poems to do with Christmas food as well as plenty of Christmas food to go with it! Another session focused on reading the poems of Henry Normal, a key writer of the famous 'Royle Family' series. He has a lovely sense of humour, is extremely clever with words, but also knows about life's difficulties. The group would heartily recommend this poet's works.

GARDEN HINT *By Sue Johnson*

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As this is the first magazine article of the year, somewhat late but may I take this opportunity of wishing you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Our Christmas Tree Festival was a great success again, raising in excess of £2,500.00 to add to our Funds. Thank you to all who made the effort to come and support us at this event. I would like to thank all the helpers and the committee who worked so hard over the course of the weekend making sure everything ran smoothly. Nearly all the home made cakes disappeared and Miriam and Dieter's sausage and bacon rolls went down a storm.

Fifty eight trees were exhibited this year by local businesses ,clubs and societies and when all the trees were lit up it created a wonderful atmosphere in the church. We all enjoyed meeting so many new people and families to the Village and hope you all enjoyed the Festival.

Many of you will remember Avril's Soup Kitchen which used to be an annual event in the village. We are planning on holding a similar event in conjunction with Elsenham Women's Institute and you will have the opportunity to come along and try and buy homemade soups and cakes. This will most likely take place in the Memorial Hall. More details to follow when available.

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advice

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- ✓ *Ensure you're being paid at least the National Minimum /Living Wage.*
- ✓ *Note renewal dates for energy, broadband and mobile contracts.*
- ✓ *Review any benefits or support you may now qualify for.*
- ✓ *Set a simple budget for the year.*

If you are looking for local help or community support services, you can easily find what's available through  essexfrontline.org.uk, the county's online platform for quickly finding and accessing local health and wellbeing services.



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THE AUBREY BUXTON NATURE RESERVE

By John Welham, Warden

✉ communications@essexwt.org.uk



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At the time of writing, in early January, there is snow on the ground and we have the lowest temperatures of the winter so far. In the reserve, our native birds are joined by winter visitors.

The survival of many avian species hinges on the availability of high-energy berries. While resident birds like blackbirds and mistle thrushes are year-round foragers, winter brings charismatic visitors from the north, most notably the redwing and the fieldfare. These members of the thrush family arrive in flocks from Scandinavia, driven by the search for the "hedgerow harvest."

The hawthorn is perhaps the most critical winter larder. Its deep red "haws" are rich in antioxidants and are a primary target for newly arrived redwings. While elder berries are often the first to be stripped in late autumn due to their high juice content, any remaining clusters provide an essential sugary boost before the deepest freeze sets in.

The bright red berries of holly are not only iconic for the festive season but are a vital, calorie-dense, food source. Interestingly, birds often leave holly berries until they have softened through several frost cycles, ensuring a food supply that lasts well into the New Year.

Perhaps the most underrated plant in the winter garden is the ivy. Unlike other species, ivy berries ripen very late, often not until January or February. When hawthorn and holly have been exhausted, the fat-rich black berries of the ivy provide a "bridge" to spring. For a fieldfare or redwing facing a late-season cold snap, these berries are quite literally a lifesaver.

By preserving these four plants, ivy, holly, elder and hawthorn, we ensure that our winter visitors find the sanctuary and sustenance they need to survive the coldest months.

TRANSPORT UPDATE

By Ray Franklin

After communicating with Stephensons Buses, no alteration to the 7 & 7A bus timetable has been made at the present. It is felt that nothing will change for the time being. When made aware of any changes look for information I will post around the village.

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Elsenham Tots and Toddler Group

NEWPORT & DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

By Sandra Honour sandra@thewesleys.net



We ended 2025 with a wonderful Christmas demonstration by our much-loved Barbara Collins. In addition to the 'sparkle' in Barbara's displays, guests were welcomed with a glass of bubbling Prosecco and some delicious savoury nibbles.

Our sales table offered many festive items and at the end of the evening Barbara's beautiful floral creations were raffled. Club members also contributed to the Christmas Tree Festival held in Elsenham Church with three fantastic topiary arrangements; they were not your usual 'tree' but they were much admired! We begin 2026 on 18 February by welcoming back the very talented Gill McGregor.

Gill demonstrates nationally, teaches and is the author of many floral-related books, so please come and join us for what will be a fabulous evening. You can also keep up to date with club activities via our Facebook page, 'Ugley Bunch Flower Club'.



Display by Barbara Collins



Christmas topiary



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THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

By Ken McDonald, Secretary
✉ www.hundredparishes.org.uk



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

✉ hundredparishes@btinternet.com .



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

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ELSENHAM TENNIS CLUB

By Petra Studholme  814667



Happy New Year from Elsenham Tennis Club.

We are a welcoming friendly club with lots going on to suit all ages and abilities to enjoy tennis. We are located on the Playing Fields right in the heart of Elsenham. We have two all-weather courts, floodlights so you can even play before or after work. As a member, 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. We also participate in inter-county competitions so our team captains are constantly looking for new members to join the teams.

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 or call/text 07790 561 817. 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.

Hire our courts – open to non-members

Hire our courts to play with friends and family - £3 per adult, and 50p for under 18s. You can email us for availability, but please, if possible, give us 24hrs notice as we need to arrange to open the courts. It's a great steppingstone, a try before you commit as well, if you are thinking of becoming a member.

Membership

We have membership packages to suit everyone. Our playing year is from April to March of the following year. Our fees are amongst the most reasonable in the area and instalment payments are also available.

If you are interested, send us a message,  mail@elsenhamtennisclub.co.uk so you can ask further questions or come and see us in action at one of our events.



Weekly Activities

Tuesday Tennis Club Night – 8-10.30pm

Wednesday Tots' Tennis Lessons (Pre-school) – 1.45-2.30pm

Wednesday – Club Practice Sessions 7.30-9pm

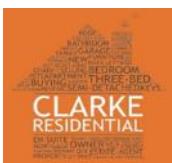
Friday - Ladies' Morning – from 10am

Saturday Tots' Tennis Sessions (Nursery/reception/key stage 1) – 10.30-12noon

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ELSENHAM BOWLS AND SOCIAL CLUB

✉ www.elsenhambc.org.uk

By David Thomas



We have lots going on at Elsenham Bowls & Social Club throughout the year, open to both existing and new members. Until the weather warms up a little and the green is ready for the start of the bowling season in April there is plenty to do at the club, particularly for our social members to get involved in.

Just before the Christmas break our members enjoyed our Christmas Dinner & Dance at the club. The music provided by Around Midnight was well received and a good time had by all who attended. Around Midnight will make a return to the club for our music night in June.

Our next music evening is on Valentine's Day with a tribute to Whitney Houston performed by Nicky Fisher. Tickets are available now at £8 for members and £13 for non-members. Availability is limited so please call Trevor on ☎ 07445 437437 to secure your ticket for the event. Other social events coming up are a Quiz Night on March 14 and Race Night on March 28. Please book your place early for these events.



As always, our Friday social evening continues throughout the year, from 7pm. There is also Short Mat on a Monday afternoon and Crib and Darts during the week. Bingo sessions are at 7:00 for 7:30 on 21 February plus March 7 and 21.

For full details about Elsenham Bowls Club including membership and our opening times please see our website ✉ www.elsenhambc.org.uk

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STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

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



Unfortunately 'The Ashes' have not been regained. It took Australia just 11 days of cricket to go 3-0 up in the series !!! Is bazball dead?

Do you remember what a thrilling summer of test cricket we all had in 2025? No time to think about that however we quickly move on to 2026. World Cup T20s. One Day Internationals, Test Matches against New Zealand and Pakistan a full year of international cricket to look forward to.

Meanwhile down at 'The Hall' we have been busy. Our annual General Knowledge quiz was a success with 160 attending. We must thank the Manuden Village Hall committee for allowing us the use of that venue. Indoor nets have already begun for both senior and junior sections at The Bishop's Stortford Boys High School.

We are looking for new members of all age groups. Our seniors will be playing in Divisions 1 and 3 of the Herts & Essex Border League. Local cricket playing on nice grounds especially on our home ground at Stansted House – one of the best in the area (I am biased). The ECB 'All Stars' programme (5 to 8 year age group) will once again be headed up by Paul Walton plus 'Dynamo Cricket' (8 to 11 year age group). Numerous matches will be organised for all junior age groups in the local West Essex league (no motorway driving).

The club will be holding an 'Open Day' before the start of the season probably late in April, why not come down have a look around have a cup of tea – details to follow.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

A Funeral Service at Ugley Church on 21 January 2026, Sharon Glenis Clarke, aged 61 years, formerly of Lloyd Taylor Close, Little Hadham.

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

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

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



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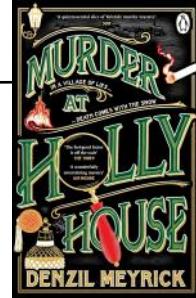
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BOOK REVIEW FOR 2025

Reviewed by Marion Giles for Elsenham Book Group

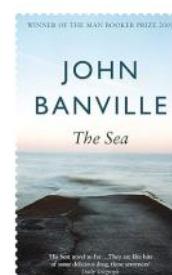
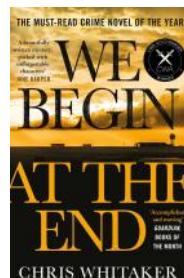
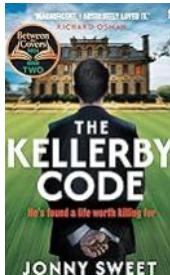
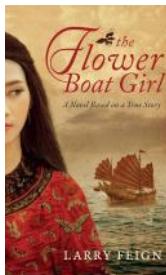
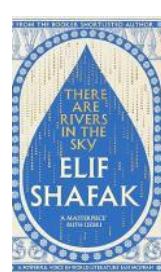
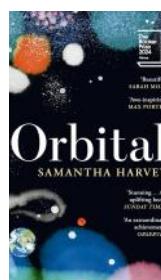
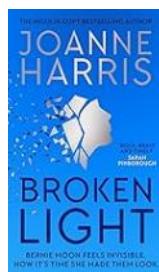
The book group select a book by a vote of Christmas themed books to read for discussion in December. This year the vote went to ***Murder at Holly House*** by **Denzil Meyrick**. This was the Waterstones Thriller of the month and hailed as 'A crime Christmas Stocking must.'



'A village of secrets. Yorkshire, 1952. Christmas is fast approaching when a dead stranger is found lodged up the chimney of Holly House in the snow-covered village of Elderby. Is he a simple thief, or a would-be killer? Inspector Frank Grasby is ordered to investigate. But as is often the way for him, things don't go according to plan. A Christmas to remember. When the local doctor's husband is murdered, Grasby begins to realize that everyone in Elderby is hiding something. And if he can't uncover the truth soon, the whole country will pay a dreadful price...' So says the blurb on the back of the book.

We all enjoyed reading it—it was funny in places with lots of dry humour. It had a good plot and was an entertaining read. Set just after the war, the language and descriptive qualities perfectly evoke that period.

We don't pick a book to read over the Christmas period and go out to dinner for our meeting in January to discuss our method of choosing books for 2026. So there is no book group review this month but we will be back next month with a review of our January reading. As well as the Christmas reading, here is a reminder of the other books we read during 2025.



ELSENHAM EAGLES (Elsenham Action Group for Local Environmental Sustainability)

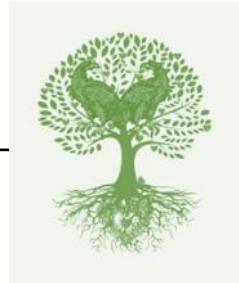
✉ elsenham.action@btinternet.com

www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100092659455786

January Update: Community Garden and Green Festivals

The Elsenham Eagles gathered at the Bowls Club in January to map out an exciting year of local environmental projects.

Following the success of the recent Christmas Tree Festival, the group is now focusing its efforts on enhancing our local green spaces.



Community Garden Growth

The "Somewhere Nice to Bee" community garden remains a top priority. Plans are underway to install a stunning living willow dome, with Bianca Donald currently sourcing quotes for the project. While Tim Donald continues to liaise with Honours regarding the installation of a new standpipe, the group is also planning to reposition the garden bin and install new entrance signage.

If you would like to join a future working party, please contact Bianca on  07941 880297.

Big Green Festival Picnic

Mark your calendars! The Eagles will be hosting a community picnic in the garden as part of Sustainable Uttlesford's Big Green Festival. The event promises to be a hit with families, featuring activities such as:

- * Building a large pallet "bug hotel" (where children can create individual "apartments").
- * Bug hunting expeditions with identification charts.
- * Constructing a hibernaculum to support local reptiles.

Wider Community Events

Members are invited to celebrate Sustainable Uttlesford's first birthday on 5th February at the Council Offices in Saffron Walden. This event is a great way to connect with other local green initiatives. You can book your FREE tickets on Eventbrite.

Join the Eagles!

With a healthy budget of over £5,000 in combined funds and grants, the group has plenty of resources but needs more hands on deck. Due to current capacity, the thermal imaging camera project has been put on hold until membership grows. A new recruitment drive is launching soon with posters and leaflets across the village.

Whether you have a green thumb or just want to help the local environment, the Eagles would love to meet you.

Email: elsenham.action@btinternet.com

Next Meeting: February 23, 7:30 pm at the Bowls Club.

A wonderfully buttery cake with a sugary swirl and a delicious crunch from the pecans, this is like a sponge version of a pecan Danish.



PECAN AND CINNAMON RIPPLE SQUARES (cuts into 16)

8oz (225g) softened butter, plus extra for greasing

4 large eggs

8oz (225g) self-raising flour

8oz (225g) caster sugar

2 teaspoons baking powder

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

For the ripple:

4oz (100g) pecan nuts

1oz (25g) light muscovado sugar

1 heaped teaspoon ground cinnamon

Grease and line with parchment a 12 x 9 inch (30 x 23cm) traybake tin. Heat the oven to 180°C/fan 160°C/gas 4.

Place 3oz (75g) pecan nuts in a food processor and whizz until finely ground. Mix in a bowl with the muscovado sugar and cinnamon. Set aside. Chop the remaining pecans by hand for topping.

Put all the ingredients into a large bowl (or food processor) and beat until smooth. Spread just under half the batter over the base of the prepared tin. Spoon over about two-thirds of the pecan ripple mix in an even layer. Spoon over the rest of the cake batter and gently level the surface with a small palette knife. Drag the handle of a teaspoon in a swirl pattern through the layered batter. Sprinkle over the rest of the pecan ripple and top with the reserved chopped pecans.

Bake in the oven for 25-30 minutes or until risen, golden and just firm to the touch. Remove from the oven and cool in the tin for 5-10 minutes, then turn out on to a wire rack to cool down completely. Cut into squares to serve.

CHEF'S RECOMMENDATION: Cake freezes well, cut into squares and defrosted when required.

Editorial Information

Articles

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

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

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

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

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

General Notes

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

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

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

The editors' decision is final.

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

Subscriptions

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

Advertising

The costs are as follows:

	Single Insertion	Annual Cost (11 issues)
Quarter Page	£3.00	£25.00
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Back Page		Contact us

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

To place an advertisement:

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

Advertising Editor: TBA

Business Advertising

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

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

Previous issues of Elsenham News are available on the ECA Website

www.ElsenhamCommunityAssociation.org.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS

History Society AGM & Meeting March 11
Elsenham Community Association AGM - March 12
Bowls and Social Club Quiz - March 14
Bowls and Social Club Race Night - March 28

VILLAGE CONTACTS

Airport Roadside Parking		0800 731 2385
Beavers	1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com	
Bowls Club	Therese Clear	07759 158859
Brownies	elsenhambrownies@gmail.com	
Church Office (Old Frank's, High St, Elsenham)	Anna Hicks	814285
County Councillor (Stansted)	Ray Gooding	813103
Cricket Club	David Brown	831011
Cub Scouts	1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com	
ECA (Chair)	Sue Waite	07956 899326
ECA (Secretary)	Chris Richardson	07940 465627
ECA Website	www.ElsenhamCommunityAssociation.org.uk	
Elsenham Eagles	elsenham.action@btinternet.com	
Elsenham Farmers Market	elsenhamfarmersmarket@gmail.com	
Elsenham Surgery	www.elsenhamsurgery.nhs.uk	814730
Elsenham C of E Primary School	Linda Todd Headteacher	813198
Elsenham Church PCC Secretary	David Hill	812397
Elsenham Rights of Way website	www.e-voice.org.uk/erowos/	
Friends of Elsenham School (FOES)	Louise Judd	foespta@hotmail.com
Henham & District Garden Society	Moyra Jackson	647351
History Society	Mike Rea	evhs12@hotmail.co.uk
Member of Parliament	Kemi Badenoch	0207 219 5214
Memorial Hall Bookings		
www.elsenhamcommunityassociation.org.uk/hiring-elsenham-memorial-hall		
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator	Frances Lambert	07771 728332
	franceslambertnhw@btinternet.com	
Parish Clerk - Fiona Gardiner	clerk.elsenhampc@gmail.com	07456 791727
Elsenham Parish Council Website	www.elsenham-pc.gov.uk	
Police		101
Post Office		812175
Rainbows	elsenhamrainbows@gmail.com	
Scouts	1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com	
St Mary's Fabric Fund	Elizabeth Barker	813543
Tennis Club	Petra Studholme	814667
Tots & Toddlers	Dawn Temple	07944 841358
Uttlesford District Councillors	Petrina Lees	07713 074656
(for Elsenham & Henham)	Bianca Donald	07941 880279
Village Hall Bookings	elsenhamvillagehall@gmail.com	
Womens Institute Secretary	Gill Hathaway	813385
Youth Football Club (Chairman)	Ricky Lambourne	info@elsenhamyfc.co.uk

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

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