

Elsenham News



elsenhamnews@hotmail.co.uk

July 2021

75p where sold

Please note that following government advice regarding Covid-19, most regular activities that would normally take place in the Memorial Hall or the Village Hall have been cancelled until further notice.

The following groups or activities are suspended until further notice:

Community Choir
Life Drawing
Rainbows
Yoga

Guides
Line Dance
Tots & Toddlers
Zumba

Some groups are meeting online or in a limited way

Beavers and Cubs

Brownies in the Memorial Hall

Church services and special events (please see page 27)

Little Fishes is meeting in the Memorial Hall

Elsenham & Stansted Hall Cricket Club training & fixtures (see website)

Kick Boxing (on Playing Field)

Shape to the Beat (on Playing Field)

Village Café, tea, coffee (see page 19)

Parish Council meetings please see page 29. Contact Louise Johnson for further information on meetings by email on [✉ louise.epc@gmail.com](mailto:louise.epc@gmail.com) or check EPC website, [🌐 https://elsenhamspc.gov.uk](https://elsenhamspc.gov.uk).



Mobile library visits to Elsenham have resumed. Visitors are restricted in numbers so you may have to queue. Face coverings must be worn.

Place: Glebe End. Time: 11.50am to 12.20pm
Day: Thursdays. Dates: 15 July, 5 and 26 August

THE NEWS REPORT

From The Editors



As the magazine goes to print, we should have been commenting on the village fete, but sadly that had to be cancelled. The Pop-Up market, organised by local businesses who'd intended to take a stall at the fete, created quite a buzz. Lovely to see community initiatives take off, well done to the organisers for thinking on their feet.

We have a packed magazine as usual, featuring suggestions for lots of things to do, reports on lots of things that have been done, and demonstrating what a busy village it is. It is a sad counterpoint to that to see the resignation of two driving forces of village life. Mrs Reid is retiring as Head Teacher of Elsenham School after 18 years, see p5; and Petrina Lees is stepping back from running Rainbows, which she has done for 20 years, see p9. Rainbows are, therefore, looking for a new team to run their activities and the Brownies also need more helpers, see p9.

Here at the magazine we are also in need of help with getting the magazine distributed around the village (see below).

If you enjoy the sense of community of living in Elsenham, perhaps now is the time to join in by helping. As clichéd as it sounds, it is fun and rewarding.

Happy reading, see you next month,
The Editors

ELSENHAM NEWS - can you help?

We have a vacancy for a Distribution Co-ordinator. Each month, the printed magazines need to be collected from Prontaprint in Bishop's Stortford, sorted into bundles and distributed to our fabulous team of deliverers who walk the streets and pop the magazine through your letterbox. This is the role of the Distribution Co-ordinator. Covid-19 has increased the importance of this task to reduce the number of people handling the magazine each month. Do you have one day a month to spare and a car? If you do and would like to help please get in touch on elsenhamnews@hotmail.co.uk.

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THANK YOU, MRS REID

*From the Elsenham School
Governors, on behalf of many
people*



At the end of the summer term Elsenham School's Head Teacher, Linda Reid, will be retiring after 18 years of dedicated service to the community. Everyone who knows Linda, or has had any connection with the school during her headship, knows what a remarkable person she is and what an amazing job she has done throughout her time at the school.

When she started at Elsenham in 2003, the school was a single-form entry with 120 pupils and the numbers were dropping. She leaves the school having transformed it into a two-form entry school with over 300 pupils and pupil numbers rising every week.

Linda encouraged the children to dream and she taught them that they could achieve those dreams if they put their minds to it. Academically, the school is one of the highest performing schools in Essex and it will be no surprise that in 2020 she was recognised by Essex County Council as one of the three best primary school head teachers in Essex.

She has always believed that the children should receive a fully-rounded education wrapped in a Christian ethos and she worked hard to ensure that the children were given a huge range of opportunities, covering a wide range of areas in arts, sciences and sports. Anyone who has heard the children recounting stories of their trips to a wide range of places as diverse as Hatfield Forest, the pantomime at Stevenage, and the Year 6 school journeys will know how much the children have been inspired by this approach.

Linda has always believed that the school should be at the centre of the community and that every child should be able to attend their local village school. In order to achieve that she has successfully lobbied for an expansion of the school premises and, when she was successful with this, managed two significant building projects. On both those occasions, her insight and passion for all aspects of education, combined with her laser-like focus on detail, have resulted in facilities that will help educate children for years to come.

This was never a 9-to-5 job and many of the longer-term residents in the village will recall seeing her working in her office early in morning, late into the evening and on Saturdays. There is an entire generation of Elsenham families who have benefited from her approach to primary education, and I am sure they will all join us in wishing her a long and happy retirement.

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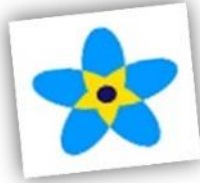
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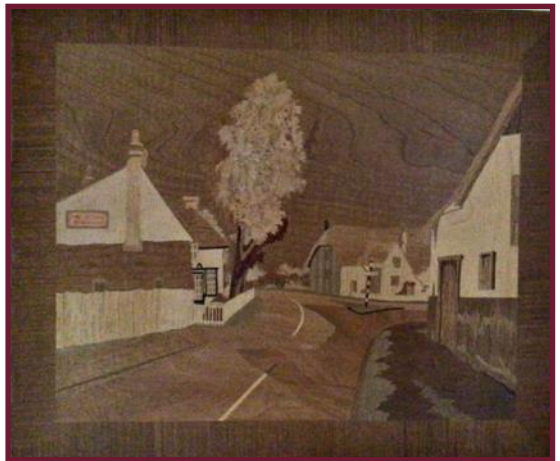
Are you caring for or living with someone affected by Dementia / Alzheimer's or have you lost a loved one and would just like to chat?

Then why not pop along to our Dementia Café and enjoy companionship, support, activities, information, and advice and of course refreshments. We will meet weekly in Fairycroft House. Onsite parking is available. Why not drop in and see us.

WHO PRODUCED THIS?

I have recently obtained this 18" x 15" wooden picture (marquetry). The scene is around the area of the Crown pub, possibly in the 1930/40s. Unfortunately there is no artist's name, date or any other markings.

I'm hoping that someone in the village can provide me with some information. Any thoughts, however small, could help to put some details around the picture.



Can you please help ?

If so, please contact Gos Hall on ☎ 813795 or ✉ seongos@hotmail.com.

CALLING ALL CHILDREN WHO USE THE ELSENHAM PLAYGROUND

We are planning for the future development of the children's playground on the playing field and we want it to be the best that it can be so we need you to tell us what you would like to play on. What have you seen in other playgrounds that you enjoyed and had fun on? We need your views and ideas before we can move forward so get drawing, designing or taking photos and send them to me, Councillor Sue Waite at ✉ sue70epc@gmail.com

I can't wait to see your ideas.



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Can you help us Please!



Our brownie pack would like some more adults to volunteer with us and help Brown Owl and Cosmic Owl with our meetings, term time only for 1.5hrs on Tuesdays starting in September.

We are a lovely group of girls who have lots of fun, enjoying various activities, badges, outings, sleepovers and laughing and eating sweets 😊. Please consider giving back something to your community and Girlguiding will support you, give you friendships, experience and an opportunity to put your skills to the test and learn new ones along the way.

If you're 18 or over and can commit to a weekly meeting, then Brown Owl would love to hear from you. Come on don't be shy, come and join us, there will be a lot of us in September and we would love to meet you. Thank you for reading to the end.

Email Brown Owl at ✉ elsenhambrownies@outlook.com

RAINBOW LEADERS NEEDED

After 20 years of absolute fun, I am resigning as a Rainbow Group Leader. Therefore, Elsenham 1st Rainbows NEEDS a new team to run this fabulous section of Guiding.



Rainbows is for girls from 5 – 7 years and runs for 1 hour, weekly during term time

Rainbows learn by doing – they get their hands dirty, do sports, arts and crafts and play games. Being a Rainbow is all about having the space to try new things. Through taking part in a range of different activities with girls their own age, Rainbows develop self-confidence and make lots of new friends.

Please consider helping, so young girls in the village can continue having fun..... It is hugely satisfying and rewarding, and easy.

I am more than happy to help with the transition. It is with a heavy heart I have made this decision, as it has been an absolute joy and honour.

Petrina Lees ☎ 816675

For more information please contact Jennifer Jarvis (District Commissioner)
☎ 814434

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LOVE YOUR NETTLES?

By Richard Peake

We are being encouraged to 're-wild' bits of our gardens for butterflies amongst others and nettles are often cited as being good for their caterpillars. Indeed this is true as our resident species of small tortoiseshell, peacock and comma love to eat them. Caterpillars of non-resident species of red admiral and painted lady also enjoy them.

It would be a mistake to just let the nettles grow and not 'manage' them for the benefits of these lovely butterflies. Our resident species hibernate in old buildings (including Henham and Elsenham churches) and emerge in the warm spring weather, laying their eggs on the growing nettles. These caterpillars pupate and the second generation adults emerge in July or August and look for more nettles on which to lay their eggs. This is where the problem begins since nettles at this time of year are now mature and forming seeds. - these are not palatable to the caterpillars.



In olden times, the hay meadows (including patches of nettles) were cut in July and the crop removed (along with the nettles). These meadows were then left to regrow and grazed by the cattle and sheep. Crucially the nettles re-grew and the fast growing new shoots were very appetising for the caterpillars. The adults from this second generation would then feed on flowers in the autumn to build up reserves for the winter hibernation and the early spring when flowers are scarce. Those of you with fallen fruits from apple trees may also see the adults feeding on the sweet juices of these rotting apples and also imbibing some alcohol as well since the sugars ferment naturally. This makes the butterflies a bit drunk!

So, if you want to encourage your butterflies please cut down your nettles this month and remove the cuttings – you may well see some new caterpillars in August on the re-growing nettles. This is also an important food source for the caterpillars of the non-resident species of red admirals and painted ladies so that their second generation adults can fly south to Southern Europe and North Africa over the winter. Thanks as well to Uttlesford District Council for cutting the verges so the re-growing nettles are at their best for the caterpillars.

Incidentally several of the caterpillars of the species mentioned above also enjoy eating hops which we often see in Essex climbing telegraph stays or rambling over hedges. These plants are the left overs from when Essex hosted hop gardens – do you know where local pub 'The Hop Poles' is located?


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You can always tell that summer has arrived when the village flowerbeds are in all their summer glory! The WI bench in the Memorial Garden has also had a much-needed make over and is looking glorious. Our thanks go to Allan Hathaway for all his hard work.



Our last meeting was the lovely Saffron Summerfield sharing her 'Milton Keynes to Mississippi' musical journey with us. Her tales of 60s London were fabulous. We all reminisced by a 'show & tell' of the first single/45 we bought. This was very cleverly accompanied by a playlist of the very varied selection prepared by Gill – a fitting end to a lovely meeting.

Like everyone we are holding our breaths, waiting for an announcement regarding the next steps out of lockdown. We hope to be able to hold meetings in person soon, however without the benefit of a crystal ball I cannot predict when that will be. As was said last month – please keep checking our posters and social media for the latest information.

Our programme says our August meeting will be our 'Spectacular Centenary Party'. One way or another we WILL celebrate our 100 years. Exactly what form this takes will depend very much on the regulations. We will keep all our members informed, as we have done throughout, so please keep checking your emails.

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings. Our contact details are at the back of the magazine and details of our programme, events and activities can be found on our social pages. If we are unable to meet in person we will be on Zoom. There has never been a better time to come and join us – we look forward to welcoming you!

**Facebook: Elsenham WI Twitter: @elsenhamwi Instagram: elsenham_wi
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Elsenham WI – There's a lot going on!

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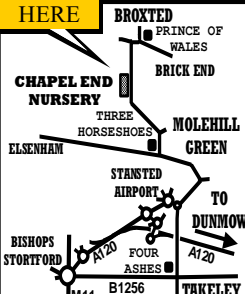
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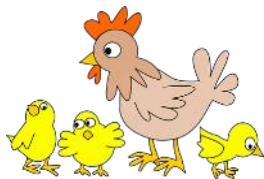


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All the animals love seeing everyone and they particularly like being fed by everyone, so if you would like to visit, please make sure you book in via our website  www.daisymaysfarm.org – please note we can NOT admit anyone who has not prebooked.

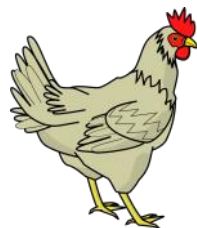


We still have SO many babies around the farm and they are ALL so cute, don't miss out!

If you have a child's birthday coming up, why not have your party with us at the farm? Also, if you arrange school trips, come and have a chat with us, we love having the school children here and they love coming here for an informative and fun day out!

There is so much going on at Daisy May's Farm at the moment, so make sure you don't miss out. We really look forward to seeing you soon.

Many thanks.





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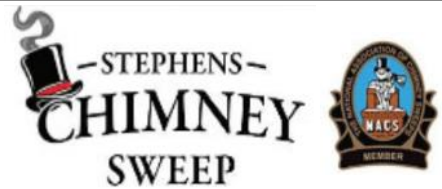
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DEVELOPMENT DEVELOPMENTS

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



A Pyrrhic victory, just in case you weren't paying full attention during Ancient History lessons, is one where you win but gain nothing. Such is likely to be the outcome for Stansted Airport, following the Appeal Inquiry decision allowing an increase in passenger numbers from the current limit of 35 million passengers per annum (mppa) to 43 mppa. In the last twelve pandemic-dominated months, Stansted Airport has handled a mere 3 mppa. An optimist of heroic proportions would be needed to believe that the airport will come anywhere near its 2019 level of 28 mppa for many years, never mind the larger number now granted.

If the decision is hollow for the airport, it is devastating for Uttlesford District Council. The inspectors decided to award costs to the airport against Uttlesford Council and they could run into more than a million quid (you and I will be paying). The inspectors suggested that they might have made a costs award themselves if the airport had not initiated it. 'The Council's reasons for refusal', they stated, 'are imprecise, vague and unsubstantiated. They do not stand up to scrutiny'. UDC 'persisted in arguing for the imposition of a condition (so called "condition 15") which is clearly unlawful, unnecessarily prolonging the inquiry'.

As a further sign of ineptitude, UDC is asking the Secretary of State (SoS) to intervene. This is silly posturing - he has no power to do so, now that the inspectors have given their decision. Stop Stansted Expansion asked for the application to be 'called in' by the SoS in March 2018, April 2019 and as recently as April this year, with zero support from UDC. Uttlesford Council was clearly out of its depth, on which there is something of a conspiracy of silence - UDC won't admit it, and the airport will not now say so, having achieved their objective.

The inspectors have been criticized for the brevity and one-sidedness of their report. Nuanced it is not. One wag suggested that they should be thanked for their Executive Summary and asked for the full report. They continued to regard carbon emissions as a matter for Government, and assumed that foreign air travel must necessarily be a good thing, regardless of the pandemic. The Delta variant did not arrive by the sea route.

The only outfit to emerge with any credit from the whole caboodle is Stop Stansted Expansion, which pursued its case consistently. If the inspectors set aside too readily some well-reasoned arguments, SSE at least escaped censure, and the airport did not apply for costs. There is no realistic likelihood of further applications for airport expansion and SSE is now transforming itself into Stansted Airport Watch, with some of the old guard leaving and a different but still vital monitoring role anticipated.

The Gladman application for up to 220 dwellings to the north of Bedwell Road has gone to appeal, with an inquiry scheduled to start on 14 September and last for eight days. UDC has promised to defend refusal vigorously; no doubt the applicants are assembling a full team of expensive lawyers and consultants.

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ELSENHAM





“Is the end in sight? I do believe it is”. That’s what I wrote last month. However, one step forward, one step back. As I am starting to write this there are leaks from our government that opening up could be delayed until sometime in July. Well, I can still write “the end is in sight” – just a bit further away!

We are assuming that any plans for Fabric Fund entertainment activities are now pushed back until after the school holidays, that is September at the earliest. Still, at least our twice-delayed Christmas Tree Festival is not affected – yet! Given the opportunity, we will make it one to remember. Keep your fingers crossed!

Keep watching *Elsenham News* and keep an eye on the local websites - we will let you know our plans as soon as we can.

Until then, stay safe and don't hesitate to take your vaccinations when offered. We will get there in the end!

ELSENHAM VILLAGE CAFE

By Sue Waite

Coffee mornings are back 13 and 27 July
Bowls Club 9.30am - 11.30am

I've run Elsenham Village Café for about two years but it has been closed for the past year because of Covid. A lovely group help – Lynda B and Lynda J live on Elsenham Vale and are super cake makers. Linda S and Brenda D help set up and wash up and meet and greet people.

There are afternoon teas in the Memorial Hall twice a month and also a cooked lunch once a month. Coffee mornings twice a month in the Bowls Club, croissants and fresh coffee. All free, people can make donations if they wish – it covers costs.

We are lucky to have the Memorial Hall and the Bowls Club to run the café, both places are warm and welcoming. It has taken time to build-up a super group of people who attend our afternoon teas and coffee mornings, we are so very grateful for your support.

Prior to afternoon tea session, Jackie T runs a chair exercise class, which anyone may join. After the exercise you can enjoy a cake without feeling too guilty.

We welcome more people during our afternoon teas. Children are very welcome and there are activities to keep them entertained.

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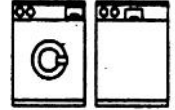
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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

By Frances Lambert franceslambertnhw@btinternet.com



YOUR INFO? DON'T BE SCAMMED!

Residents are reminded to keep their personal documents safe after a number of reports of scammers asking for copies of passports and driving licences. Essex Police have seen a recent trend in scammers requesting personal details which can be used to steal someone's identity. This has been linked to a number of different scams including:

- HMRC/National Insurance fraud where the criminal claims they need your personal details to prevent prosecution or reinstate your NI number.
- Computer software frauds where the criminal claims to be from your internet provider. They take control of your computer and say they need to take a photo of you and your driving licence/passport to confirm your identity.

Requests for personal details should always be a red flag. You should never provide this information unless you have confirmed who you are dealing with. To protect your information and your money,

STOP - Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.

CHALLENGE - Could it be fake? It's OK to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

PROTECT - If you have provided personal details to someone over the phone and you now believe this to be a scam, contact your bank, building society and credit card company immediately and report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040 or at www.actionfraud.police.uk.

DID YOU KNOW? Over 70s can renew their driving licence for free with the DVLA.

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Temporary Closure of Footpath 44 and Footpath 45, Stansted Mountfitchet

Essex County Council will temporarily close footpath 44 and footpath 45 starting at Alsa Street, just after Aubrey Buxton Nature Reserve, eastbound across the footpath and footbridge to where the footpath meets Isabel Drive. The footpath will be closed from 9-30 August. The closure is required for the safety of the public whilst waterproofing and resurfacing work is carried out to the footbridge.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

No Notices this month

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THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

🌐 www.hundredparishes.org.uk



With school holidays approaching and more people spending time near home, I would like to remind you of the walk routes that are on the Society's website and free to download and print. Over the last year or so, we have been steadily increasing the number of recommended routes. We now offer more than 75 routes covering some 400 miles in total with little repetition. Soon, each of the hundred parishes will feature in at least one walk. Most routes have a mixture of countryside and town or village. There is a good range of distances, from 1 mile upwards. Station walks start and finish at railway stations and all others start and finish at a suitable place to park.



Our aim is to help residents and visitors to easily enjoy the area. The routes are planned so as to use good paths and quiet lanes, and to achieve an interesting mix of scenery. The descriptions seek to ensure that nobody will get lost and also to provide sufficient information along the way to make the outing interesting. The area's abundance of public rights of way, its gentle natural beauty and wealth of listed buildings make this possible. Many walks pass or finish near a pub or tea room, thankfully now open again.

While we can plan the route to pass through attractive countryside and villages, we can't predict what pleasures nature may have in store: perhaps majestic cloud formations, the sights and sounds of birds, the variety of butterflies and insects, the scale of badger diggings, deer prints, even a glimpse of a hare or fox or herd of deer. The seasons bring changes to trees, crops, wayside flowers and fruits. With such potential, each walk can be an adventure. We encourage you to carry a camera.

Ken McDonald, Secretary.

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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SCOUTING NEWS

By Matt Morland (Akela) ☎ 07747 272706



Community Scouting has moved forward in leaps and bounds since the lifting of Covid restrictions allowed us to get back to face-to-face meetings. Scouters have thoroughly enjoyed being back together, taking full advantage of outdoor activities in the glorious weather (with a few exceptions), learning by doing while making friends and having fun.

Beavers have been learning mapping skills, taking part in a treasure hunt around Henham, den-building at Alsa Wood, making bug hotels and leaf art, and have also learnt about health and fitness, all working towards their Safety, Outdoors and Adventure badges.

Cubs have taken full opportunity to get out-and-about with lots of health and fitness activities, including martial arts, sports evening and an evening spent hiking from Elsenham to Henham (followed by hot chocolate and biscuits!). Our Cubs also took time to learn about disability and diversity, learning about what makes our community so diverse, and what we do as Scouts to make our movement all-inclusive.



Our Leadership and Committee currently have their hands full with a number of upcoming projects, with Section Leaders planning ongoing activities with Beavers and Cubs, and the wider group moving forward with preparations for opening our new Scout Troop in September, all requiring a significant amount of time and effort from our volunteers.

As this article wings its way to the editors, our group is putting the finishing touches to plans for Elsenham Fete, with our Beavers and Cubs helping our on our stalls which goes towards their Community and Our

World badges as taking part in local community events and charity activities.

Hopefully by the time you read this article you will be able to say you met us at the fete and were able to hear even more about the great work of our volunteers at 1st Henham & Elsenham Scout Group, and about how much fun our young people have in Scouting from our Beavers and Cubs, as well as the Leaders. *[Editor's note: due to delay with easing of lockdown restrictions, Elsenham Fete was cancelled.]*





HENHAM, ELSENHAM AND UGLEY CHURCHES

Office@heuchurch.co.uk

Thought for the month

This month after 48 years of commuting into London to work, I decided it was time to call it a day and retire. For most of us, the pandemic and lockdown has been a challenge, but in some ways it has been a blessing to me and perhaps to others reading this. It has given me time, whilst working from home, to reflect on other things in life; what is important to hold onto and what can be left behind.

Retirement is a big decision and speaking to others, one doubt that weighs heavy on many hearts is "Is there enough money in the pension pot?" I was reminded of a quote by oil billionaire Paul Getty Jnr who simply said "Enough is never enough," and he struggled with this problem for most of his life. What he meant was we all strive for just that little bit extra. That extra pound in the bank or one more promotion should do it or that one last alteration to the house to save for. There never seems a day when you wake up and feel satisfied that you have enough. I had been guilty for several years of saying to myself, "One more year and then I can retire."

We so easily forget that it is God, the creator of all things, who made us and provides for everything we need. All we have comes from God and ultimately all we have returns to God, and that includes our pension pots too.

The bible is clear about what it calls storing up treasure on earth, and Jesus tells us in Luke chapter 12 of a rich man. This man bought a field to grow crops and he built a huge barn to store

enough grain to live comfortably for the rest of his days. He was very pleased with his plans and proud of his hard work and delighted over his very full barn. But God called him a fool and that very night he took his life from him. The lesson is not that the man was rich, but that he had lost sight of the fact that it is God's blessing and mercy, richly provided to him, rather than anything the man had achieved by his own efforts. The man sadly relied and loved his savings rather than trusting in the one true God.

If you have been thinking about what is important in life, your priorities and where God fits into this, and have been saying to yourself "I will look into the bible and Jesus' claims as to who He is, but perhaps next year..." then please don't put things off. Why not join us at Church here in the village on Sundays or find out about joining a group during the week that read the bible together. It just might help in making those big decisions in life a little easier.

*Rocky Stevens
Churchwarden*

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Courses can start anytime at times to suit you. If you would like a place on a course, contact office@heuchurch.co.uk with the days and times (am, pm or eve) that are best for you.

Church Services

Our in-person service pattern is as follows:

4th July – Trinity 5:

Visiting speaker: *Archdeacon of Stansted, Revd. Canon Robin King*
8.45am BCP* Holy Communion,
Elsenham

[11.15am Holy Communion, Henham](#)

11th July – Trinity 6:

Visiting speaker: *Revd. Dr Mark Burkill, Church Society Trust & Patron of Henham*

8.45am BCP* Morning Prayer,
Elsenham

10am BCP* Holy Communion, Ugley

18th July – Trinity 7:

10.15am All Age Service, Elsenham

11.15am All Age Service, Henham

25th July – Trinity 8:

8.45am BCP* Morning Prayer,
Elsenham

10am Morning Service, Ugley

* BCP = *Book of Common Prayer*

To attend in-person services, please note that you must book in to ensure Covid safety with the relevant Churchwarden:

Henham: Richard Peake 850374;

Elsenham: Roger Clark 850638;

Ugley: Bob McKean 812263.

This is subject to regular review in line with the government roadmap out of lockdown.

We are also still meeting 'virtually':

HEU Combined Churches Service

Available via the website each week:

www.heuchurch.co.uk

Or search 'Henham, Elsenham and Ugley' on YouTube

'Zoom Service' at 9.30am

We use the **same link** each week.

Contact Charles Willbe
(c@willbe.me.uk) for the link

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

Other regular events

Some of our groups are meeting in-person as follows:

Elsenham Little Fishes Pre-School Group

Fridays, 10am at Elsenham Memorial Hall during term-time. For parents and caregivers and pre-school children. Join us for singing, Bible stories, craft and games.

Henham Little Fishes Pre-School Group

Thursday 1st & 8th July, 10.15am

Meet at **Henham Church Hall**, Carter's Lane if wet **OR the garden of 'White Cottage'**, Carter's Lane if dry! Join us for play, Bible stories, songs, chat and refreshments.

St Peter's Ugley Junior Church

Meeting in church on Sundays at 10am on 27th June and 11th July, subject to Covid restrictions.

Henham Sunday Club & Explorers (age 5-Y6) We meet at 11am at the **Church Hall, Henham** every term-time Sunday, whether there is a service in Henham or not.

Pathfinders (Y7-Y9) – Sundays, 6pm

Join us for fun, games and a look at how the Bible is relevant today. The venue varies, so please contact the office for further details.

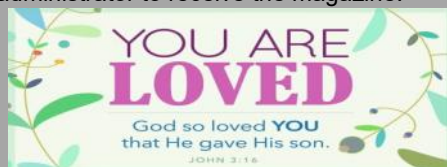
Crammin' (Y10-Y13) Sunday evenings, 7pm at Church Hall, Henham. Chat, fun and games; and a short bible discussion.

Other groups continuing virtually:

Elsenham Sunday Club and Explorers

(Y1-Y6) We continue to run the magazine programme each week. This includes a story, teaching sheet, family prayers, quizzes and crafts. Contact the administrator to receive the magazine.

Christian Play (Y1-Y2) We continue to run the magazine programme each week. This includes a story, teaching sheet, family prayers, quizzes and crafts. Contact the administrator to receive the magazine.



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JULY AT U3A STANSTED

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Last month the Stansted U3A committee was delighted, (following government guidelines), to be able to hold its first 'in person' meeting since March 2020. They have appreciated monthly Zoom meetings but to meet up in person was a great joy for them and they were able to make good headway on organising future meetings and to discuss theatre and concert outings and other trips out.

The first walk of the year was led by Sally Rich as Tony Wellings is unable to lead at the moment. He came to see us off, however, to encourage us at the start of our 4 ½ mile circular walk and to tell us to look out for the cowslips, bluebells, wildflowers and orchids on our way from Bentfield Green to Wakelings Wood. One of the highlights of the walk was seeing a buzzard being harried by a crow. What you might call a 'Little and Large' moment!

We are hoping to have another two guided walks with Kate Birbeck, a local historian, as the one on 2 June was oversubscribed. Those of you who expressed an interest in 'Walking in the footsteps of the Victorian Gardner Family of Stansted Hall' are on a waiting list so please look out for an email from Lynda Webb with the dates.

On 15 July at the monthly meeting our speaker, Alan Hayes, will give a talk entitled, 'Baby Boomer Nostalgia Show'. A Saturday seminar is also planned for 17 July 'The History of Navigation'. If you are not already a member we would be very pleased to hear from you. Membership is only £12 this year and details can be found on our website ☎ www.U3Asites.org.uk/Stansted/home.



All events are subject to government guidelines.

ELSENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

No meeting was held on 7 June and there will be no meeting on 5 July owing to Covid-19 restrictions. It is hoped that the July meeting will be moved to 19 July and can be held in person in the Memorial Hall.

The August meeting should be held on 2 August in the Memorial Hall at 8pm. For confirmation, contact Louise Johnson for further information on meetings by email on ✉ louise.epc@gmail.com or check EPC website, ☎ <https://elsenhampc.gov.uk>.



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ELSENHAM VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

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

🌐 www.elsenham-history.co.uk



Reading the paper a little while back I was sorry to see that a plan to maintain a heritage centre on the site of the old Whitechapel Bell Foundry had foundered and the old foundry would become yet another boutique hotel ending over four centuries of tradition.

Newer readers may wonder why this would feature in an article about Elsenham's history but the answer is simple. Two of the four bells that grace the tower of St Mary's church were cast there. The first of these and the first to be hung was the Treble bell cast by William Culverdon, a Master Founder at Whitechapel between 1506 and 1522.

The bell cannot be dated better than this but at the start of this period Henry VII was on the throne to be succeeded by his seventeen year old son Henry (VIII) in 1509 who at once married his first wife (of many) Catherine of Aragon. History indeed! The second of the Whitechapel bells, the Third, was a relatively modern addition having been cast in 1819 by Thomas Mears, another master founder. This was also the last of the St Mary's bells to be hung. A swift glance at the Elsenham Timeline on our website shows that this was the year of the Peterloo Massacre in Manchester and a year before the death of King George III in 1820. It was also a year after the appointment of Thomas Canning as Vicar of Elsenham, a post he held until his death in 1855. For the sake of completeness, the other two bells of St Mary's, the Tenor and the Second were cast at Hitchin Foundry in 1572 and 1600 respectively.

All is not lost, however, for the art of bell founding in the UK. The Loughborough Bellfoundry Trust has won a grant to save the premises of John Taylor and Co. Bellfounders. It was here in 1881 that the Great Paul bell was cast for St Paul's Cathedral, larger even than Big Ben that was cast at Whitechapel in 1858. Big Ben was a replacement for the original bell that had been cast in the North East and cracked beyond repair when being tested and tuned in New Palace Yard.

Over the years there have been more than a hundred of these articles covering a wide range of topics. They may all be found on our website, if you have a spare minute or two, click on <Our Society> then <Newsletters>, it will be well worth your time. There is of course a great deal of other information available on the site as well as a lot of photographs both ancient and modern to coin a phrase. Go on, have a look, you won't regret it.

Hopefully by the time you read this, we will have had a successful Village fete and will be looking forward to a more normal life. It is intended that our first meeting post lockdown will be on Wednesday 8 September and will incorporate our postponed Annual General Meeting. The final speaker line-up is still being finalised but our previously booked speakers have been very helpful and all have agreed to speak at some point, I should have more on the programme for the next few meetings next month.



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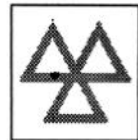
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ELSENHAM C. OF E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

By Linda Reid, Headteacher



It has been wonderful to welcome the sunshine after the half term break, following the disappointing weather in May. We are very lucky to be blessed with some wonderful outside space, which the children have delighted in making the most of. The children were recently asked to submit their requests for new play equipment to enhance their break times. They were pleased to identify some much loved favourites, most notably, lots of balls, and more balls, as well as some additional new equipment, including some to improve balance and agility. With so many new children joining school, it's important that we have enough to go around for everyone to play at break times.

I am delighted to let you know that Mrs Draper, one of our assistant headteachers, has given birth to a baby daughter, Cicely, who will be known as Cece. Both mum and baby are doing well and we are very excited for all of them. I am confident that Mrs Draper and her husband will be wonderful parents!

In other staffing news, we have appointed two further teachers to join our teaching team for September. Mrs Dupplaw and Mrs Robinson are both experienced teachers and they are really looking forward to joining us. Their appointment will enable us to facilitate our longer term growth and move to having fourteen classes in school, two for each year group.

Our second taster day for the children who will be joining our school for the first time in September, took place earlier this month. It was lovely to see their excitement as they became more familiar with their surroundings. They visited in two groups with the highlight for each group involving building a boat together using the giant rainbow tiles. The children are already showing great team working skills! Their final visit this year will take place on the morning of 8 July when they will join with children across the school for our "Meet the Teacher" morning.

Plans for school trips are now well advanced with most classes opting for visiting wide open spaces where they can really explore the natural environment, either on the beach, on parkland or in the forest. One or two year groups have elected to do something a little different this year, with children in Early Years holding a "Royal Ball Day" and children in Year 2 having an in house Zoo Lab visit to support their learning in science.

The remainder of this academic year promises to be very busy indeed. In common with most of the country, we are currently awaiting news from the Prime Minister about the further reduction in restrictions. This will enable us to plan the way forward with our usual end of year activities such as our Sports Day and Achievement Assemblies. FOES, our PTA, have organised a family fun evening in early July and we hope to bring the academic year to a close with some very special celebrations.

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NATURAL OUTLOOK ON THE HIGH LIFE

By Heather Salvidge 🐦 814153



Recently, while in Yorkshire, we went to the RSPB Reserve at Bempton Cliffs where it was the early part of the birds' breeding season. Magic. There were many 'usual birds' about on the landward parts of the reserve on the North Sea's edge, cliffs that go down hundreds of feet to the water. With loads of ledges from very narrow to very wide this is where seabirds, up to about 250,000 of them, 'nest'.

Near the cliff's edge I looked up and above me was a gannet. These are big birds! Adults are mostly white with black tips to their wings. The long, pointed bill protrudes from the gap between two piercing blue eyes crowned with a buffish yellow head. The wing span over me was more than six feet. Later we watched them diving in their classic style, way below us, pointing at the surface clasping their wings tightly to enter the water like a torpedo.

There are fulmars too. Like an albatross but much smaller, it has the ability to glide a long way on stiff, straight wings. With large heads, a short, thick neck and a yellow bill with glands to get rid of sea water, their plumage is usually pale, medium grey above and pale below. Their look-a-likes are kittiwake; a bit smaller, round-headed, with a short, white neck and underparts, grey wings with tips, "dipped in black ink" and black legs and 'Kittiwake, kittiwake' is its call as well as its name. There were several herring gulls patrolling the cliffs looking hopefully for unattended nestlings.

There were three representatives of the auk group; guillemots, razorbills and puffins.

Guillemots, about 16" -17 " beak to tail, are dark chocolate on the head, back and wings with a white stripe on the wings – though they tend to look black - and white on the other parts. Some have white 'spectacles' .The bill is slender, dark and sharply pointed. They use the very narrow ledges for 'nesting' and lay an almost pointed egg to prevent it rolling off the cliff. Razorbills like wider ledges or crevices. They are a bit smaller and the plumage looks blacker where it doesn't cover the white underparts. It, too, has a white wing stripe. Bills are very different, in contrast to the guillemots' bill it is shaped more like an old-fashioned razor, black with white bands round it. There were a few puffins where we were; in burrows where there was a patch of grassed over soil sloping towards the cliff edge. I expect you know what a puffin looks like – smaller than the two other auks, black and white with the multi-coloured 'parrot bill' but the most delightful of all I think.

The whole experience was amazing; the hundreds of various birds in flight, to and fro from 'nests ' - they are very sparingly arranged if at all - whirling about and plunging down to the water. Then the noise created by all these birds squawking, grunting, cackling, making raucous noises or a call like someone with a sore throat. And the stench – very fishy. And being so close to some of them which had made their homes near the top or in the wide crevices which came close in to the path. Or if you get the binoculars on the teeny white dots below only to discover a whole raft of mixed sea birds either fishing or just floating and preening.

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Eyes Down in Elsenham – A History of Elsenham Bingo

The game of Bingo first started in our village in 1966. Organised by The Elsenham Working Men's Club. The caller was Cecil Clayden assisted by yours truly. I had the role of checker. No electronic checking machine then. That would remain at the old village hall for some time. We had numbers sometimes in excess of 100! I took over calling from Cecil. The cost of hall hire plus the licence, which then was a requirement, meant a search for a new venue.

The Working Men's Club building opposite Park Road was the new home. It was briefly the Elsenham Community Centre. Fond memories, using both the snooker room and the Mission Room. Listening if someone won the other side of the wall. Connected by a PA system, the punters could hear my "Eyes Down" through a speaker.

When the new Community Centre was built, Bingo did not take place there. It was successfully organised again within the Elsenham Bowls Club in 1999. There it remains to this day. Over time there has been a number of callers but I am proud to have had that role for most of the time.

We hope to resume on 14 August at the Bowls Club at 7.30pm for 8pm. All are welcome.

There will be a Bingo bonus and hopefully a special extra.

ELSENHAM FLOWER SHOW SOCIETY

Sue Johnson ☎ 812704



PLANT SALE and FLOWER SHOW

Our Plant Sale raised an amazing £800, which will go towards the staging of Elsenham Flower Show, hopefully taking place on Saturday, 21 August this year. All being well, the full show schedule and entry form will appear in the next edition of *Elsenham News*.



We hope you are delighted with the plants you bought. Thank you for continuing to recycle your pots with us - given the huge number of plants we grow for the sale, we can never have enough!



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AMERICAN DIRT by Jeanine Cummins

Reviewed by Marion Giles



'Lydia Perez owns a bookshop in Acapulco, Mexico, and is married to a fearless journalist. Luca, their eight-year-old son, completes the picture. But it only takes a bullet to rip them apart.

In a city in the grip of a drug cartel, friends become enemies overnight, and Lydia has no choice but to flee with Luca at her side. North for the border... whatever it takes to stay alive. The journey is dangerous - not only for them, but for those they encounter along the way. Who can be trusted? And what sacrifices is Lydia prepared to make. ...' So says the blurb on the back of the book.

- **Devastating and timely... It's hard to imagine there will be a more urgent or politically relevant novel this year** — *Observer*
- **Heartstopping... doesn't let up... you will urge them on, fists clenched** — *The Times*

This was the choice of the book group this month. The book was generally well-liked and was rated with a couple of 9/10 scores. There is no doubt that this is a book full of tension and drama although that didn't appeal to all.

At a family party, 15 members of Lydia's family including her husband and her mother are murdered by members of a local cartel. A criminally orchestrated murder. Owing to a fortunate trip to the bathroom at the time of the massacre, Lydia escapes with her eight year old son. The bulk of the book follows their flight to el norte - the United States - following the route used by refugees on La Bestia. There are many others with a range of backgrounds and reasons for attempting this dangerous and illegal journey. Who to trust is a constant dilemma for Lydia in her attempts to keep her son safe.

The book is 450 pages but is a real page-turner with a relentless pace and is surprisingly easy to read. The novel illustrates what can happen when societies and their political leaders turn a blind eye to the actions of the corrupt and criminal few which erode the rule of law. It also illustrates the negative effects that certain policy decisions have on refugees and migrants.

Jeanine Cummins has thoroughly researched her subject and her empathy with migrants is evident. Some people have criticised the book for cultural appropriation but Jeanine Cummins uses her reporting skills to simply tell a story. Agatha Christie was not known as a murderer just a brilliant crime writer. Some of the events are quite shocking and from the author's notes at the back are obviously based on true accounts. However, Lydia and Luca are fictional and the story demonstrates the humanity and vulnerability of many migrants faced with almost impossible choices.



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ELSENHAM TENNIS CLUB

By Petra Studholme 📞 01279 814667



Elsenham Tennis Club will hopefully be opening the courts during the Village Fete if everything goes to plan. What we are allowed to do remains to be determined at this point but we are planning activities such as test your serve speed, kids play and adult mixed doubles.

NEW Cardio tennis session on a Tuesday at 6.30pm:

As of July we are offering another club session – it's basically sign up every week if you want to participate. Register your interest now (even if you are not a member) for a taster session.

NEW Summer Camp for Juniors:

Our passionate and dedicated coach Steve is planning to run a summer camp for 6 to 14 year olds (split into ages and ability) throughout the summer holidays which will involve some multi-sports activities as well. We need you to register your interest to figure out demand for this to make it work and plan ahead for various ages and time slots.

You can get in touch with him directly via email to stevesmith865@hotmail.com or 07790 561817.

Coaching

Steve runs individual, joint and group lessons to suit all needs, ages and abilities. More group sessions for tennis are being added frequently so take note if you are interested in cardio tennis workouts or just wanting to learn a new sport while having fun exercising with the added bonus of meeting new people. Do come along

Weekly schedule: now up and running.

Tuesday evening – club night

Wednesday morning – ladies' morning

Thursday evening – two group coaching sessions

Friday morning – ladies' morning

Sunday afternoon – leisure play

GARDEN HINT *By Sue Johnson*

Check regularly for pests such as bright red lily beetles and vine weevils. Robins love weevil grubs, put them outside on the ground in a shallow tray and these'll disappear in no time! *(pic: Chris Smith)*





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STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

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



At last the sun is shining and cricket is well under way. Down at 'the Hall' we have 100 juniors between 5 and 16 years for the first time ever. League cricket for our juniors has begun not only at Stansted House but also at Molehill Green. The club played its first game at Molehill Green against Stansted at the U10 age group and a fine evening was had by all. The U13s had a fine win at Dunmow with Ed Stabb scoring 35 and the U15s were defeated by Saffron Walden. Numerous fixtures have been arranged so our young players now have a busy couple of months. The club will be holding one, or possibly two, cricket camps during the summer holidays. The first will be late July run by club coach, Oliver Patmore.

The seniors have made a good start to the season with the 1st XI winning four out of the first five league matches. The 2nd XI are just below half way in Division 2. Midweek nets are well attended and all in all a good start to the season. The club has been knocked out of the League Cup comprehensively by Farnham.

The club will be playing T20 matches against Russell Property, our main sponsor and Nockolds our junior section sponsor in the near future – always enjoyable evenings with cricket, beer, and barbeque.

We would like to thank Petrina Lees and Ray Franklin for their support.

ELSENHAM BOWLS AND SOCIAL CLUB

By Sue Waite ✉ suewaite2003@yahoo.co.uk



Hello everyone, Elsenham Bowls and Social Club is open for you so come along and enjoy a drink or two in the sunshine!

We are open on Wednesday and Friday evenings from 7pm onwards. We are also open at weekends when there is a bowls match on so come and watch a game or two.

We very much want to hear from our social members – obviously because of lockdown we have not been able to put on any social events so we very much need your input on what you would like to have at the bowls club – your views and ideas are important to us so please let us have them. Please send an email to ✉suewaite2003@yahoo.co.uk with any ideas you have!

All being well we will have a Quiz on 21 August. Fingers crossed. We hope to resume our coffee mornings on 13 July from 9.30-11.30am with another set for 27 July.

Hopefully see you soon!



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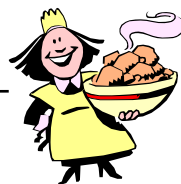


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COOKERY CORNER

By Sue Johnson ☎ 812704



This classic salad is full of flavour and texture. It is very versatile. Mix and match the ingredients to suit what is in season.

SALADE NICOISE (serves 2)

- 8 small new potatoes
- 50g green beans (a small handful), trimmed and halved
- 2 medium tomatoes, quartered OR 8 cherry tomatoes, cut in half
- 50g pitted mixed or black olives
- 1 Little Gem Lettuce, quartered
- 145g can tuna in olive oil, drained, oil reserved
- 3 eggs

For the dressing:

- ½ garlic clove
- 1 anchovy fillet (optional)
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 4 tablespoons reserved olive oil from the tuna can (topped up, if needed)

To make the dressing, mash the garlic and anchovy (if using), with a small pinch of salt. Combine the paste with the mustard and vinegar, then slowly stir in the oil. Set aside. Tip the new potatoes into a large pan of cold, slightly salted water. Bring to the boil, then reduce to simmer. Add the beans and cook for 5 minutes, then remove with a slotted spoon, plunge into a bowl of cold water to cool. Cook the potatoes until tender, drain and leave to cool. Halve or quarter the potatoes and toss in a large bowl with 1 tablespoon of the dressing.

Meanwhile, simmer the eggs for 7½ minutes. Transfer to a bowl of cold water. Drain the beans and eggs. Peel and halve the eggs. Tip the lettuce quarters, cooked green beans and olives into the bowl with the potatoes. Add most of the remaining dressing and gently toss. Divide the salad between two bowls and top with the tomatoes and eggs. Flake over the tuna, then drizzle with the remainder of the dressing and season. Serve immediately.

CHEF'S RECOMMENDATIONS: Little Gem lettuce is great for crunch but you could also use rocket or mixed leaves. To optimise the flavour of this salad, use really ripe tomatoes, warm them in the sun before use, if you can. Alternatively, use a handful of sundried tomatoes instead. If you prefer, omit the potatoes. If fresh tuna is on offer, cook on the griddle, slice and add instead of tinned. For maximum flavour, let your potatoes and green beans cool in the vinaigrette.

Editorial Information

Articles

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

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

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

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

Please submit all articles, adverts, letters and queries to the editorial team at: 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: village residents may submit details of items wanted or for sale at no charge. These will be included in the next available magazine subject to space and acceptance by the editors.

Subscriptions

Elsenham News is available by email (on a pdf) at no charge, or through the post at a cost of £13 per annum. Contact Sarah, see details below.

Advertising

The costs are as follows:

	Single Insertion	Annual Cost (11 issues)
Half Page	£20	£190
Quarter Page	£10	£100
Inside Page	£50	n/a
Back Page	£75	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 please contact us. Please send your advert as Word or Publisher via email to elsenhamnews@hotmail.co.uk

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

Flyers

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

Editorial Team

Sarah Alder	817660
Marion Giles-Donovan	812763
Heather Baxter	812924

ECA Website

www.ElsenhamCommunityAssociation.org.uk

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, 21 August, 3pm – Elsenham Flower Show

VILLAGE CONTACTS

Airport Roadside Parking		0800 731 2385
Beavers	1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com	
Bowls Club	Jean Platt	816151
Brownies	Jennifer Jarvis	814434
Church Office (Old Frank's, High St, Elsenham)	Anna Hicks	814285
County Councillor (Stansted)	Ray Gooding	813103
Cricket Club	David Brown	831011
The Crown pub	info@thecrown.info	814444
Cub Scouts	1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com	
Cycling Club (Victoria CC)	Doug Yareham	07884 040892
Elsenham Community Association (ECA)	www.ElsenhamCommunityAssociation.org.uk	
ECA (Chairman)	Allan Hathaway	813385
ECA (Secretary)	Moyra Jackson	647351
Elsenham Surgery	www.elsenhamsurgery.nhs.uk	814730
Elsenham C of E Primary School	Linda Reid, 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)	Gemma Mills	07745 036066
Guides elsenhamguides@gmail.com	Gemma Lewis	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 1943
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	https://elsenham-pc.gov.uk/	
Police		101
Post Office		812175
Rainbows	Petrina Lees	816675
St Mary's Fabric Fund	Elizabeth Barker	813543
Scouts	1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com	
Tennis Club	Petra Studholme	814667
Tots & Toddlers	Trudi Marsh	899864
Uttlesford District Councillors	Petrina Lees	816675
(for Elsenham & Henham)	Garry LeCount	07836 346717
Village Hall Bookings	Annie Gleeson	07809 490731
Village Hall email address	elsenhamvillagehall@gmail.com	
Women's Institute	Gill Hathaway	813385
WI website	www.elsenhamwi.co.uk	
Youth Football Club (Chairman)	Paul Jarvis	814434

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



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