

Elsenham News



Summer Choral Extravaganza

Saturday 18 July

Elsenham Village Hall

High Street, CM22 6DD

(next to the school)

2.30pm



elsenhamsnews@hotmail.co.uk

July 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

July 2026 diary

Thurs 2 & 16	Community Supermarket	O/S Memorial Hall 1.30-3.30pm
Fri 3	Anti-Social Behaviour Surgery	Memorial Hall 2-4pm
Mon 6	Parish Council Meeting	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Tues 7	Henham & District Garden Soc.	Memorial Hall 2pm for 2.30pm
Tues 7 & 21	Elsenham Community Choir	Village Hall 7pm
Fri 10 & 24	Church Lunch Club	Memorial Hall 12.30pm
Sat 11	Charity Quiz Night	Bowls & Social Club 7.30 for 8pm
Tues 14	Natter Night	The Crown 7.30pm
Tues 14 & 28	Life Drawing	Village Hall 7.30pm
Thurs 16	Elsenham WI	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Sat 18	Millionaires' Night	Bowls & Social Club 7 for 7.30pm
Sat 25	Farmers Market	Village Hall 12.30 – 2.30pm
Sat 25	Bingo	Bowls & Social Club 7.30 for 8pm
Mon 27	Elsenham Eagles	Bowls & Social Club 7.30pm



Mobile Library
Every third Saturday stopping at Glebe End
9.30am to 10am Next visits: 18 July 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
Wednesday	8pm	Fitness Yoga/Pilates	Memorial Hall
	9.45-11.30	Tots and Toddlers	Memorial Hall
	5.30 & 7pm	Slimming World	Memorial Hall
	6.30-7.15pm	Women's Strength and Mobility	Village Hall
	7-9pm	Scouts	Ugley Village Hall (term-time)
Thursday	7.30pm	Aerobics	Elsenham Village Hall
	9-10am	Teddy Bear Music	Memorial Hall (term-time)
	9.30-10.45am	Buffy Playbus	Crocus Drive (see website)
	6-7.15pm	Cubs (Bear Pack)	Ugley Village Hall (term-time)
Friday	6.45-7.45pm	Jump Fit	Elsenham Village Hall
	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)

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THE NEWS REPORT

From The Editors



Welcome to this month's edition of Elsenham News.

As I write this, summer finally seems to have arrived. Gardens are flourishing, allotments are bursting with promise and, if you're anything like me, you've already convinced yourself that watering the plants counts as exercise.

This month's magazine is a wonderful reminder of just how much goes on in and around our village. From the Community Choir's Summer Choral Extravaganza and the many activities taking place throughout July, to preparations for the Flower Show in August, there is certainly no shortage of opportunities to get involved, meet friends and support local groups.

I particularly enjoyed reading about the history of Elsenham Tennis Club as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. It's amazing to think of the volunteers who helped create the courts back in 1976, proving once again that community spirit has always been one of Elsenham's greatest strengths.

For those looking to enjoy the outdoors, Daisy May's Farm is full of new arrivals, the Nature Reserve is alive with summer colour and wildlife, and our local allotments continue to thrive. There are plenty of reminders throughout these pages that we are fortunate to live in such a vibrant and active community.

As always, thank you to everyone who contributes articles, photographs and news. The magazine only exists because so many people are willing to share their stories, events and achievements with the rest of the village.

Whether you're reading this in the garden, on holiday, or with a cup of tea and a biscuit in hand, I hope you enjoy this month's edition.

Have a wonderful July.

The Editorial Team
Elsenham News

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The Clerk and Chair of the Allotments Committee recently carried out an inspection of the village allotments. It was wonderful to see so many plots being actively cultivated and thriving. The allotments continue to be a valuable community asset, providing residents with the opportunity to grow their own fruit, vegetables and flowers. If you would like to join the waiting list for an allotment plot, please contact the Parish Clerk for further information.

The Climate Change Committee has successfully completed its LED Street Lighting Project. As part of this initiative, nine village streetlights have been upgraded to bat and insect-friendly LED lighting, helping to reduce energy consumption while supporting local wildlife and biodiversity.

The committee has also taken delivery of twelve bird boxes, which will be installed at suitable locations around the village in the coming months to encourage nesting opportunities for local bird species.

Our Village Ranger has been hard at work cleaning bus shelters throughout Elsenham, helping to keep the village looking tidy and welcoming. In addition to these duties, the Ranger will now also be carrying out regular playground inspections to ensure our play areas remain safe and enjoyable for local families.

The Parish Council has now completed its year-end financial processes, with only the external audit remaining. Financial documents and year-end information are available for residents to view on the Parish Council website as part of our commitment to transparency and good governance.

Looking ahead, the Communications Committee will soon be undertaking a refresh of the Parish Council website with the aim of making it more user-friendly and easier for residents to access information. We are also excited to be adding a collection of beautiful images of Elsenham, kindly provided by local photographer Dale Crawson, which will help showcase our wonderful village and its surroundings.

As always, we thank residents for their continued support and involvement in our community.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 6 July 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



In June 2023, Uttlesford District Council was on the Planning Naughty Step, because too many of their refusals of planning applications were overturned at appeal, giving developers the possibility of taking their application direct to the Planning Inspectorate. This option was taken by Countryside (a neatly ironic name, since their purpose is not to preserve the countryside) with their proposal to build 130 homes in the field at Elsenham Cross, opposite the Crown. The application was opposed fiercely on account of the nearby heritage assets. These protestations fell on stone deaf, and possibly uncomprehending, inspectorial ears; outline approval was given on 14 June 2023, with the usual proviso that a detailed application must be received within three years.

The application was submitted with just eleven days to go. The developers say that they propose to make further amendments. It is not difficult to find errors and inconsistencies. For instance, there is mention of a Heritage Statement, but no such Statement has been found. Again, it is admitted, coyly, that not all gardens comply with policy, but there is nothing to show where the shortcomings might be.

There is confusion regarding the 'affordable' homes, which are said to amount to 40% of the total, that is, 52. But on the plan which indicates them with a red blob, only 40 blobs can be found. Furthermore, as is often the case, the distribution is very uneven, with parts of the site wholly blobless, and other parts very blob heavy.

Provisions regarding parking are unsatisfactory. It is claimed that parking for flats can be reduced to one space rather than the prescribed two, on the grounds that there is a bus station (they mean a bus stop) on Henham Road, which provides a regular service to destinations including Saffron Walden (which it doesn't) Furthermore, the expected number of visitor spaces can be reduced since there is a 'range of transport modes', by which they mean the bus and the train. The notion that large numbers of visitors will be turning up other than by walking or driving is obviously a fantasy. Also, cycling provision cannot be taken seriously. There is a cycle store with each home, fair enough. But in many cases it is not at all clear how the bike would be taken out, other than by a circuitous route including parts of a public footpath which is unavailable for cycling.

All developments these days are supposed to be able to show biodiversity net gain, and developers adopt various ruses to claim that they have complied. A favourite is to say that the net gain will be in some location apart from the site, and so it is here - but there is nothing to show how it will be ensured that the supposed gain is maintained indefinitely.

The applicants have achieved their main objective of submitting something before the deadline. It is one of very many ways in which the system favours developers that they can now take their time over amendments.



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ELSENHAM VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

By Mike Rea, Secretary ☎ 813634 ✉ evhs12@hotmail.co.uk
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Jean Beeston

We were saddened to hear that Jean Beeston had passed away. Jean was a member from the early days of the society. Later on she joined the committee and for several years gave us the benefit of her experience and advice. She was a keen researcher and the fruits of her labours resulted in the book, A History of Broom Farm. It was very popular and bears the distinction of being the only society publication to be revised for a second edition. Jean was also, for a while, the chief decorator of our tree for the St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival and received many plaudits for her work.

Our condolences go out to her husband Ian and the family

This year marks fifty years since the formation of the Elsenham Tennis Club. The very hot summer of 1976 saw a large team of volunteers digging out the base for the courts largely by hand but a large mechanical digger was often seen on site used to move the spoil from the site of the courts to the what is now the children's playground. The spoil was raised into a mound that now forms the children's slide. Once the base had been dug out and levelled the work wasn't finished as this was the signal for several lorries of ash to turn up. The material they deposited on site was to form the sub base and there followed a couple of weeks of back breaking dusty work as the ash was levelled out and compacted ready for the contractors to come in and lay the playing surface. This together with raising the fence around the site was achieved very quickly and then there was a frustrating wait for two months before the courts could be used to allow the ground to settle.

There was apparently one golden rule during all this work; when the sun set below Alsa Wood, everyone decamped to the Robin Hood pub where Ernie and Renee Atkinson would have several pints lined up on the bar ready for consumption. The Grand Opening was in September 1976 and the first match was played between John Hurwitz chairman of the Parish Council and Peter Budden chairman of the Community Association in front of a large crowd. After a fine afternoon's tennis everyone repaired to Crossways for a barbecue whereupon after months of drought, the heavens opened and it rained by the bucketful! But nonetheless a great time was had by all.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 9 September at 8pm in the Memorial Hall. Our speaker for the evening will be Martin Ratcliffe who is returning to speak about Matching Airfield. His previous talk on the Hatfield Heath Prisoner of War Camp was very well received so we are looking forward to another good evening.

As always all are welcome and visitors pay just £2. We look forward to seeing you there.

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As if that wasn't enough, we still have babies of all sorts everywhere..... Chicks, ducklings and you can even cuddle the lambs and kid goats and trust me, they don't come much cuter!

We have a fabulous safe area to play in, a train ride (£2 extra), a stream to splash in, a woodland trail to explore, ice creams to be slurped and crafts to be created, fresh homemade food to buy and more!

Entry is £6 (under 1's free) and it really is a fabulous day out for all the family.

We are open every day, but please always check our Facebook page just in case.

There really is so much to do and see at the farm and our animals just love seeing you all. So do be sure to come and see us over the summer. Can't wait to see you.



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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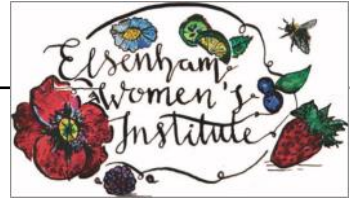
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Hays Travel

ELSENHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

By Moyra Jackson ☎ 647351



My usual comment on the weather to start – “No rain, no flowers” pretty well sums it up!

Our Committee has been voted in for the coming year and it is all the usual suspects – Sue Coleman, Gloria Eatson, Julie Hardy, Gill Hathaway, Moyra Jackson, Louise Johnson, Penny Lee, Jo Lushey, Anne McCullagh, Barbara Pether and Sue Waite. The WI members then nominated Moyra as president for this year.

This month's meeting is a special one when Helen Wiseman, local watercolour artist and illustrator comes along to give a demonstration and talk about her work. That will be on Thursday 16th and the competition is something beginning with 'I'.

Our meetings over the next few months are:

- August 20 – A Potted History of the WI with Jan Curtis
- September 17 – Members' Evening
- October 15 – The Essex Witch Trials with Peggy Griffin

We had a lovely afternoon on our Tombola Stall at the Elsenham Youth Football Club Presentation Day. Such a well run and enjoyable event. Thank you all for making us so welcome.



As a member you get all our monthly meetings plus the opportunity to come to our many sub-group activities. We accept new or returning members throughout the year and you can be sure of a warm welcome – plus, if you are really lucky, some delicious 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.

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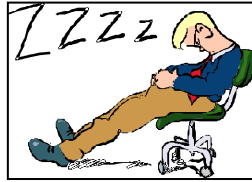
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UP, UP AND AWAY

Elsenham is known for many things. Our famous Elsenham Jam and the link to Sir Walter Gilbey and horses. The equestrian connection continues with "Golden Miller" once stabled and now buried at Elsenham Stud. A little later Dorothy Paget enters the winners' enclosure. More up-to-date we see Ben Maher M.B.E., from Elsenham, win a gold medal at the Olympic games as part of our Equestrian Team.

But do you know about our early links with Aviation? The very first ascent by balloon in this country was in 1785. However, George Nash of Elsenham Hall rose to a height of 19,000 feet to test his barometer some 50 years later. Six days later, a second ascent saw Nash achieve a record ascent of 27,146 feet. Both he and his fellow, "aeronaut" a Charles Green suffered head swelling and bleeding from ears and eyes!

ELSENHAM COMMUNITY CHOIR

By Elaine Terry ☎ 07962 586825

✉ elaine.terry2011@btinternet.com



We are delighted to announce that we will once more be performing at our Summer Choral Extravaganza on Saturday 18 July at Elsenham Village Hall, High Street, CM22 6DD (next to the school) from 2.30pm.

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

There will be summer refreshments at the interval.

There is no charge for this event, but we will be happy to receive donations for a local charity.

We have been practising hard so don't miss us!

We look forward to welcoming you.

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Uttlesford marks Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness Week with local support surgeries

Uttlesford District Council has joined forces with community safety partners to mark Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness Week and has launched a series of support surgeries to help residents feel safe, informed and supported. Residents who have experienced anti-social behaviour, or who would like advice on staying safe and reporting concerns, are encouraged to attend one of the upcoming sessions. Council officers and partner organisations will be on hand to offer guidance, listen to concerns and signpost support.

Email communitysafety@uttlesford.gov.uk to book a 15-minute appointment with an Anti-Social Behaviour Officer

Support surgery dates: Friday 3 July, 2pm to 4pm – Elsenham Memorial Hall

Cllr Sutton, Portfolio Holder for Communities and Partnerships, said: “Everyone deserves to feel safe where they live. Anti-social behaviour can have a real and lasting impact on people’s wellbeing, and we want residents to know that they are not alone.

“These surgeries are a chance for people to speak directly with the teams who can help, get practical advice, and feel reassured that action can be taken. By working closely with our partners, we are strengthening our commitment to making Uttlesford a safe, supportive and resilient place for all.”

These events are run by the UDC Communities Team in partnership with Essex Police, Essex County Fire & Rescue Service, Eastlight Homes, Neighbourhood Watch, Hastoe Housing and Clarion Housing, with support from UDC Environmental Health and Housing teams.

How to report anti-social behaviour

If you have experienced anti-social behaviour, you can report it to Uttlesford District Council by calling 01799 510510 or online at www.uttlesford.gov.uk/anti-social-behaviour



Elsenham Flower Show Society SATURDAY AUGUST 15



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AID FOR ROMANIA

By Richard Peake ☎ 850374

The spring lorry has now arrived safely in Romania after clearing customs with no problems. About 35 poor families were given clothes and three or four items of furniture for their meagre houses (more like shacks).

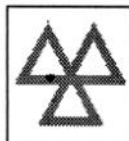
Our warehouse is now empty and we are collecting for the winter lorry. Some of the goods will be given free to needy families in Mărășești (not far from the border with Ukraine) as nominated by the local Baptist church and others by the town mayor, with the better quality goods sold through our charity shop with proceeds helping to pay the costs of the minister as well as helping the same poor sections of the community with health, education and improving their terrible housing conditions.

- Clean **winter** clothes for adults & children (under 3yrs must be new), we are always desperate for children's clothes but please wash before bringing them.
- Any **shoes and footwear MUST be brand NEW.**
- Beds (Single or Z beds and any spare mattresses), sturdy iron or wooden framed beds only - no divans as they are too bulky on the lorry.
- Cushions, bed sheets, pillows, duvets, blankets (single and double), towels, toiletries (including loo rolls), umbrellas and rugs (no carpet offcuts).
- Building and workshop tools (also some types of gardening tools).
- Surplus school tables (must be 2ft clearance underneath ie not infant) and stackable adult size chairs (please ask any contact with a local school or village hall who are/maybe re-furbishing).
- Sturdy chests of drawers, bedside cabinets, kitchen/dining tables (either drop-leaf or removable legs).
- Irons and boards. Kitchen items (crockery, cutlery, utensils, pots/pans – especially big sizes eg preserving pans).
- Wheelchairs, crutches, walking sticks, zimmers and boxes of incontinence pads.
- Bandages and dressings (absolutely NO pills, medicines or creams).
- Rucksacks and holdalls (must be in good condition).
- Costume jewellery.
- Footballs. Bikes (especially children's) and scooters.
- Large suitcases - but not the old fashioned types.
- Ear defenders for the manual workers and high-viz vests/jackets.
- Small toys such as push-along cars, cuddly toys etc (no big toys as these cause much jealousy!).
- Christmas trees and decorations etc. Large plastic storage boxes with lids. Cash donations for the cost of the lorry as it now costs more to send as diesel is not cheap and we must now clear customs.

If you have any of the above please bring them around to 1 Hall Close, Henham during July and August. Contact Richard Peake first on 01279 850374 or 07831 406225 to arrange delivery or collection.

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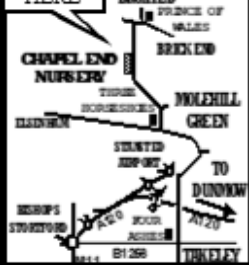
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NEWPORT & DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

By Sandra Honour, Programme Secretary

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FB: *Ugley Bunch Flower Clubs*



Our May meeting was a spectacular 'Night at the Movies' with a demonstrator new to our club, Julie Richardson, all the way from the Isle of Wight! In a previous career, Julie was a member of the Royal Navy but qualified as a NAFAS floral demonstrator in 2024.



Love Actually

Julie's personality and sense of humour, and that of her mum who accompanied her engaged our members and visitors and got everyone guessing the movie being depicted by her arrangements.

It was a great evening and the cartons of popcorn served by the committee added to the mood.



Pirates of the Caribbean

May also saw the National Flower Show at Hylands House in Chelmsford which some of you may have attended. In addition to the numerous outdoor flower and trade stalls and a talk from BBC's Adam Frost, the inside of the house was adorned with the most wonderful floral displays all themed around the Wild West.

There were various floral art competitions and we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our club member and NAFAS demonstrator Lorraine Gagen for gaining two second places with her designs. Looking ahead, we have a demonstration in the evening of Wednesday 15 July with Debbie Bull entitled 'Forget Me Not'. Please come and join us. You will be very welcome.

7pm for 7.30pm start
Third Wednesday of the month
Ugley Village Hall, Cambridge Road, CM22 6HR

GARDEN HINT *By Sue Johnson*

Resist the urge to spray: When you see aphids on plants, try to be patient, rather than spray. Predators such as ladybirds and lacewing larva will soon be along to feast on them – aphids are an important part of the food chain.

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Well-considered ideas..... You know that feeling when you slow down to exchange pleasantries with a passer-by and the chat turns out to be a really interesting conversation, they tell you some extremely useful information or make you laugh - it lifts your mood and off you go a little enlivened. Through the u3a you can access that feeling by joining groups and attending varied activities. Local people have decided they want access to some fun and to expand their horizons. Maybe a weekly dose of line-dancing might set you up, discussing a book you have all read, or brushing up on your school French? Some groups meet once a month, others weekly - you can organise to suit your circumstances.

After the recent Saturday seminar with Dr Hugh Doherty, many felt the pleasant shock that comes with hearing a surprising depth of knowledge imparted with real joy. Dr Doherty, a master of his material - King Stephen and The Anarchy in 1138 - achieved the elusive goal of covering, for most, a sketchily known period with nuance, complexity and clarity, all resting on a firm foundation of impeccable scholarship. More Saturday Seminars are on the way; these, and all the group classes, can be found on the website, www.stansted.u3asite.uk/.

In the Poetry for Pleasure group, Vicky led a discussion on the American poet Billy Collins. There was no doubt about his popularity as everyone felt that satisfying sensation of 'when you put it like that, I completely get it!' Some of the best phrasings are not at all opaque but use everyday images in a new way. For example, seeing the earth as an 'orange tangerine', or the sensation of falling asleep and beginning to dream as 'drifting into a story that will never be written'.

These reports on a mere two groups do not do justice to the 30+ on offer. Check the website or call 07874 385541.

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ELSENHAM



THE AUBREY BUXTON NATURE RESERVE

By John Welham, Warden

✉ communications@essexwt.org.uk



At the time of writing the common spotted orchids are in flower. This year again they are showing in quite good numbers although they do seem to be shorter and generally smaller than last year. Perhaps the lack of rain in May has restricted their growth. Or it may be that the lack of rain has meant that the grasses haven't grown so well, meaning that the orchids don't need to grow so high to push above the grass. I'm sure somebody out there knows which is true, perhaps both. In any event the pink flowers are contrasting strongly with the yellow of the bird's-foot-trefoil that is flowering at the same time and is an important food plant for the caterpillars of our common blue butterfly.

In spring we had some very early morning starts at the reserve in order to carry out the breeding bird surveys. At this time of the year there are some 30 different species of bird to be found in the reserve and we were pleased once again this year to find both mistle thrush (a red listed species) and grey wagtail.

The rains in the first week of June were much needed by the plants, but it has meant that I have seen fewer butterflies so far this year. However this red admiral took advantage of a break in the rain to feed on the bramble flowers.



Uttlesford Mobile Community Supermarket

We have been running successfully for over a year, stopping in eight rural locations around the district, providing basic ambient groceries and household and hygiene items at cost effective prices. Anyone is very welcome to make use of our service as regularly or sporadically as they wish, as a way of stretching budgets and/or as a more convenient method of accessing essentials close to home. We work in close partnership with Uttlesford Foodbank and currently engage with over 50 regular customers across our locations. Alongside our supermarket items, we have also been providing fresh fruit and vegetables and bakery items to give to our customers to help to promote healthy eating.

With summer approaching, we would love to hear from anyone local who has a glut of fruit or vegetables that they would like to donate to the supermarket. If this is you, please email communitysupermarket@theaws.org, or send a text to 07842 422032 to arrange collection.

If you would like further information about the supermarket, or about how you might be able to help support us, please don't hesitate to contact us.

<https://theaws.co.uk/activity-and-support/uttlesford-mobile-community-supermarket>
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61575075384072>

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HENHAM TABLE TENNIS CLUB



Did you know Henham has an active table tennis scene?

Henham Table Tennis Club has been established since 2022, we meet up every Monday evening (7pm-9pm) at the Osca village hall in Henham.

If you're new to table tennis, or already play or even looking for a new league team. Don't be shy, come along and join in the fun!

On a Monday evening there are two tables, bats and balls supplied if you don't own one already.

All abilities are welcome, and the evening is very friendly with games running the whole time. The atmosphere is very relaxed, and newcomers are made to feel very welcome. You often hear laughter coming from the village hall which must be a good sign!

The age range is varied and players come from all angles from keen teenagers to beginners, people who want to get back into the sport all the way to experienced players who play on a Monday for fun, before they play a league match and represent one of the two teams in Henham. Yes, Henham has two table tennis teams, and only one pub!

So, if you wish to play at a more competitive level, there is that opportunity too. The two league teams, Henham Raptors and The Henham Dragons have done particularly well recently reaching the finals in the local Harlow league.

So, if you fancy dipping your toe into the world of table tennis, come along and join in, it's great exercise too.

There's no membership fee, just £3 per session and under 18's no charge, for more details contact Peter Brown - peterb644@aol.com



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UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL BIG GREEN FESTIVAL



The 5-14th June was the week of the Uttlesford Big Green Festival, a week of events celebrating community action for the environment, hosted by Uttlesford District Council and Sustainable Uttlesford as well as the many volunteer groups across our district. So much positive activism is quietly protecting and enhancing our natural spaces across the district.



Our own **Elsenham EAGLES** hosted a Wild Family Picnic at the Community Garden in Isabel Drive, with participants helping to create a beautiful bug hotel from natural products.



Expert speakers filled panels at the Core Events, a special film was commissioned and screened, showcasing the fantastic work being done by **The Newport Rivers Group** to restore the precious chalk stream that runs through the village.

The Young Wilders spoke about the importance of young people having a voice and being in decision making positions in order to drive forward rewilding projects across the country as well as giving access to the natural world to those young people often excluded from it.

The energy events shared practical knowledge about how we can reduce our bills by installing low-cost renewable energy in our homes, including those of us lucky enough to live in listed buildings.

Renowned artist **Michael De Bono** exhibited his wonderful sculptures at Thaxted Eco church, in a strikingly powerful exhibition. In all, the festival was a great success, highlighting the hard work of small groups, making a difference.



ST MARY'S CHURCH ELSENHAM

Office@heuchurch.co.uk

Thought For The Month by *Louis Wilson*

This year's World Cup promises to be BIG. 48 teams (up from 32), three host countries, eye-watering ticket prices and plenty of political drama behind the scenes. What it comes down to, though, is the hard reality that on Sunday 19 July there can only be one winner. One victorious nation.

As a West Ham and England fan, I know what it feels like to be on the losing side. It's a strange concept, really, because I personally haven't won or lost anything. I am just a supporter. But it matters to me precisely because I support the team. It means their victory is my victory; their loss, my loss.

But we do this in life, don't we? We devote ourselves, our time and energy, to our favourite things, whether that's sport or something else.

Christianity is not a journey of discovery, in the way that Eastern religions promise to be. It is better to think of it as a binary choice, like picking a team to support. Perhaps putting it in those terms is unpopular today, but it's how the Bible presents things:

Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served... or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD. (Joshua 24:15)

Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. (1 John 5:12)

The truth is, we all worship something. The agnostic writer David Foster Wallace recognised this too: "In the day-to-day trenches of adult life, there is actually no such thing as atheism. There is no such thing as not

worshipping. Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship."

When it comes to worship, we all choose a side and devote ourselves to that cause. If your 'god' is self-achievement, then you will devote yourself to its cause and become part of its team. If it's material comfort or ease, your life will reflect that desire.

But if your captain is Jesus Christ, then victory is already secured, even if we're still awaiting the final whistle. Because, on his team, our efforts do not determine whether we win or lose. What determines success is the success of our captain, whose victory over humanity's greatest enemies is already won:

'Death has been swallowed up in victory.' 'Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?' The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:54-57)

See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed! (Revelation 5:5)

Being on Jesus' 'team' is not for the self-righteous 'sorted' types who want to look down on others. It's for the broken, the weary, the lost. It's for people like you and me who often feel defeated, burdened and scared.

So I'll ask again, whose side are you on?

*Pete Tibbott, Curate
Henham, Elsenham & Ugley Churches*

CHURCH EVENTS IN OUR VILLAGES JULY 2026

Church Services

Sunday 5th July

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

Sunday 12th July

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

Sunday 19th July

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

Sunday 26th July

08:45 Prayer Book Morning Prayer,
Elsenham Church
10:00 Morning Service, Ugley Church
10:30 Morning Praise, Henham Church
No Sunday@6



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 (Reception-Y5) Leave Morning Praise Service, 10.30am
Sundays: 12th, 19th & 26th

Pathfinders (Y6-Y9)

Henham Church 6.00pm - leave from service to meet in the New Church Hall, Henham.
Sundays: 5th, 12th & 19th

Crammin' (Y10-Y13)

Henham Church 6.00pm – leave from service to meet in the New Church Hall, Henham. Sundays: 5th, 12th & 19th

MID-WEEK AND SATURDAY:

Start the Week with Prayer
Old Frank's, Elsenham 9.30am
Mondays: 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th

Seekers After School Bible Club (Y3-Y4) Old Frank's 3.20pm Mondays: 6th

Tuesday Club, Henham Church
1-4pm. For anyone of retirement age or wanting company. Tuesdays: 7th (1st Tuesday of each month)

Explorers (Y4-Y6)
New Church Hall, Henham 3.30pm
Wednesdays: 1st & 8th

Little Fishes Pre-School Group
New Church Hall, Henham 9.15am
Thursdays: 2nd, 9th & 16th

Little Fishes Pre-School Group
Elsenham Memorial Hall 10.00am
Fridays: 3rd, 10th & 17th

Church Lunch Club
Elsenham Memorial Hall 12.30pm
Fridays: (2nd & 4th Friday): 10th & 24th



Remember someone special this summer by dedicated a handcrafted Forever Flower from St Clare Hospice – a lasting tribute celebrating love, memory and the moments that matter most. The bespoke ironwork flowers have been specially designed for the Hospice and are perfect for displaying indoors and outdoors. With a suggested donation of £28 per flower, supporters can remember a loved one while helping fund specialist care. Each year St Clare Hospice brings a new colour to the collection. This year, they're available in a sunshine yellow edition, ready to complement your garden or special place. Each Forever Flower can be displayed in a place that feels special - whether at home, in a garden or somewhere meaningful - or left within the Hospice grounds as part of a shared space of remembrance.



For Jen and her family, St Clare Hospice provided moments they will always treasure after her mum, Wyn, was admitted to the hospice. Jen said the atmosphere was immediately reassuring. Jen explained how the Hospice team took time to understand what mattered most to Wyn. “One of the doctors asked us what was important to Mum. We mentioned her love of horses, never imagining what might happen next. Soon after, a horse called Pebbles came to visit her in the Hospice garden.” Jen recalled how powerful the experience was. “As Pebbles gently lowered his head towards her, something changed. In that moment, she wasn't a patient nearing the end of her life – she was a little girl again.”

St Clare Hospice has today announced that it has launched a consultation on proposed changes to its services, as it responds to a significant and growing funding shortfall. Like many hospices across the UK, St Clare is facing unrelenting rising costs without a corresponding increase in statutory NHS funding. The hospice is reviewing how best to protect its specialist end-of-life care for the future. Our responsibility is to ensure that St Clare Hospice remains here for our community not just today, but for the future. The current funding model for hospices is not sustainable, and it is forcing organisations like ours into making incredibly difficult choices. Supporters who wish to help the hospice can go to www.stclarehospice.org.uk - options are to donate to support hospice care - Set up a regular gift - Fundraise or volunteer. Supporters can also contact their MP to advocate for fair hospice funding.

St Clare Hospice is a charity providing specialist care for people living with life-limiting illnesses in west Essex and east Herts border area. The charity cares for patients and their families, providing physical, social, psychological and spiritual support. St Clare Hospice's annual running costs total £2.8m, 70 percent of which comes from voluntary income.

ELSENHAM BOWLS AND SOCIAL CLUB

🌐 www.elsenhambc.org.uk

By David Thomas



Rain or shine there is always something happening at Elsenham Bowls and Social Club. Music nights, bingo and darts continue throughout the year, and we have a full bowling calendar that consists of home club competition and leagues with other local clubs.

We have a new league for bowlers to enjoy. BowlsBash is a fast-paced format featuring two short games and a decider if needed. Points are scored for each of the three placed bowls, touching the jack, and when Power Play is activated the score is doubled. It's fun, easy to play, and open to everyone—come and join us!

Thank you to all who supported our Open Day. If you are interested in finding out more about bowls and having a go for free, please join us any Friday from 5pm.

Music Nights coming up include Country Music with Pete George on 1 August and a Disco on 12 September.

Bingo sessions coming up are on 25 July and 15 August at 7:30 for an 8pm start.

Don't forget the Charity Quiz night on 11 July plus a Millionaires night on 18 July.

Remember to join us on a Friday for rollups starting at 6pm, coaching from 5pm. Our social evening continuing for all from 7pm.

For full details about Elsenham Bowls Club including membership and our opening times please see our website <http://www.elsenhambc.org.uk>

The Parishes of Henham, Elsenham and Ugley:

ORGAN SCHOLARSHIPS for 2026-27

We are pleased to announce that, following auditions held at St Peter's, Ugley, the following have been awarded organ scholarships for 2026-27:

- Ivan Erasmus
- William Guichard
- Jonah Yee Shun Chan

Thanks to all those who attended auditions, and congratulations and best wishes to the new Organ Scholars.

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Craig Pike



STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

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



The club would like to thank The Stansted Airport Community Fund for the significant contribution they made to the purchase of a wicket roller. This fund has and continues to support organisations locally and does make a huge difference – thank you.

Both 1st XI and 2nd XI are just above half way in the local leagues Division 1 and Division 3. The 1st XI had a very exciting match with Potter Street recently tying on 270! The juniors are enjoying plenty of cricket in the West Essex League and Friday evenings continue to be fun with our 'All Stars' and 'Dynamo' young cricketers.

Now speaking of age. I attended a funeral recently of a true gentleman by the name of Bernard Ellis. I remember Bernard playing football for Stansted and refereeing football locally. I also remember him for being an active member of Farnham Cricket Club. How long was he associated with that club – well unbelievably 80 years! Incredible. Having been with my club for 70 years next year I feel a mere novice.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

No notices this month.

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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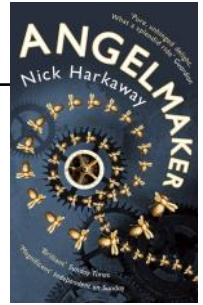
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ANGELMAKER BY NICK HARKAWAY

Reviewed by Marion Giles for Elsenham Book Group

'Joe Spork, son of the infamous criminal Mathew 'Tommy Gun' Spork just wants a quiet life, repairing clockwork in a wet, unknown bit of London. Edie Banister, former superspy, lives quietly and wishes she didn't. She's nearly ninety and the things she fought to save don't seem to exist anymore. She's beginning to wonder if they ever did. When Joe is asked to fix one particularly unusual device, his life is suddenly upended. The client? Unknown. The device? A 1950s doomsday machine. Having triggered it, Joe now faces the wrath of both the government and a diabolical South Asian dictator, Edie's old arch-nemesis. Joe's once-quiet world is now populated with mad monks, psychopathic serial killers, scientific geniuses and threats to the future of conscious life in the universe. The only way he can survive, is to muster the courage to fight, help Edie complete a mission she gave up years ago, and pick up his father's old gun...' *So says the blurb on the back of the book.*



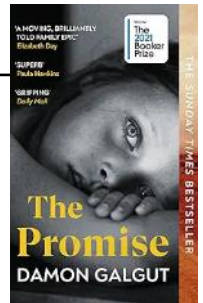
The Amazon AI says: Customers find this book engaging from start to finish, praising its wonderfully complex story and the bizarre England populated by strange characters. The writing is cleverly executed with scintillating prose, and customers appreciate its humour, with one noting its tongue-in-cheek style that alternates between humour and brutality. Customers praise the book's tremendous imagination and innovative ideas. The pacing receives mixed reactions, with several customers finding it very long-winded.

Due to illness the May meeting was cancelled, but we discussed this at the June meeting and agreed with AI. Interesting, imaginative, funny but too long.

THE PROMISE BY DAMON GALGUT

Reviewed by Marion Giles for Elsenham Book Group

'On a farm outside Pretoria, the Swarts are gathering for Ma's funeral. The younger generation, Anton and Amor, detest everything the family stand for - not least their treatment of the black woman who has worked for them her whole life. Salome was to be given her own house, her own land...yet somehow, that vow is carefully ignored. As each decade passes, and the family assemble again, one question hovers over them. Can you ever escape the repercussions of a broken promise?' *So says the blurb on the back of the book.*



The Amazon AI says: Customers find the book engaging and beautifully written, particularly appreciating its portrayal of post-apartheid South Africa. The story receives mixed reactions, with some finding it engaging while others note a weak plot. Character development and emotional content also receive mixed reviews, with some praising the well-formed characters while others find them unconvincing, and several customers describe the book as depressing. The language receives criticism for its lack of speech marks.

A mixed reaction from us. Some loved it, some enjoyed it, some not so much. We didn't like any of the characters and 'the promise' becomes an anti-climax.



NEXT FARMERS MARKET - 25 JULY 2026

Our Market runs on the last Saturday of every month, but just to make things easier, these are the dates for the rest of 2026: -

AUGUST 29

SEPTEMBER 26

OCTOBER 31

NOVEMBER 28 (*all things festive*)

Did you know that living in close proximity to a Farmers Market can increase the value of your home, as it's seen as a really positive selling feature, so why not make the most of ours?

Our stallholders can vary from month to month, and their products can be seasonal, but the quality is always tip top and there is something for everyone; so, if you haven't been for a while, do pop by. We are open from 12.30-2.30pm you will not be disappointed.

We have a great range of products, including eggs, honey, apple juice, cakes, savoury pastries, local meat products, healthy Kombucha, dog treats, chutneys and jams, plants, fish, whole foods and spices, bread, cheese...The list is long, and the majority is locally produced.

Not sure what you're after? Why not come for fresh barista coffee & cake and have a browse at the produce whilst you're here or sit at a table and watch the world go by...it's a win win!

Most of the produce is homemade, so not only do you get to treat yourself to these fantastic goodies once a month, but you are also supporting local businesses and coming together with our fabulous community; you might even make a new friend! We look forward to welcoming you.

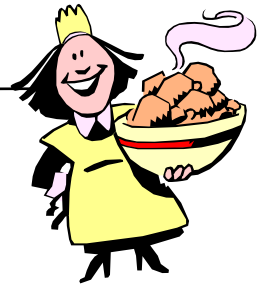
Plenty of parking and no charge for entry; just enjoy and immerse yourself in all the gorgeous produce!

Best wishes

Elsenham Farmers Market Team

COOKERY CORNER

By Sue Johnson ☎ 812704



Try this really easy and very flexible recipe. Guaranteed to be enjoyed!

CURRY IN A HURRY (serves 4)

- 2 tablespoons sunflower or vegetable oil
- 3 garlic cloves, finely grated
- ¾ oz (20g) fresh root ginger, finely grated
- 2 teaspoons curry powder (hot, medium or mild)
- ¼ - ½ tablespoons dried chilli flakes or 1 finely sliced fresh chilli
- 1½ tablespoons tomato purée
- 1 tablespoon caster sugar
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 3½ fl oz (100ml) double cream
- Freshly ground black pepper

450g diced boneless chicken or other meat, prawns or vegetables of your choice.

Heat the oil in a non-stick frying pan and very gently fry the garlic and ginger for about a minute, stirring constantly. Do not allow to brown.

Stir in the curry powder, chilli and tomato purée and cook for 1 minute, stirring constantly until the tomato purée looks glossy.

Add the sugar, salt and plenty of pepper, then stir in ¼ pint (150ml) water and the cream. Bring to a simmer and cook for 2-3 minutes, stirring constantly. Set aside.

Stir-fry your choice of other ingredients in a large frying pan or wok until cooked through

Pour the curry sauce over the cooked meat or vegetables and bring to a simmer. Cook for 1-2 minutes more or until piping hot. Add a splash of water if needed. Serve with freshly cooked rice or naan bread.

CHEF'S RECOMMENDATIONS: Use extra chilies or cut down on the cream for a more fiery curry. To make the curry go further, try adding some tinned lentils, chickpeas or beans. Make your own curry powder by using 1 teaspoon each of ground coriander and cumin, ½ teaspoon ground turmeric and a few roughly crushed cardamom pods. The curry sauce freezes well for up to three months.

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: elsenhamsnews@hotmail.co.uk

General Notes

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

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

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

The editors' decision is final.

Wanted/For Sale items: 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 elsenhamsnews@hotmail.co.uk

Advertising

The costs are as follows:

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

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

To place an advertisement:

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

Country Music Night - Bowls & Social Club 1 August

EFSS Flower Show 15 August

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 (Thaxted)	Bo Davies	
Cricket Club	David Brown	831011
Cub Scouts	1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com	
ECA (Chair)	Sue Waite	07956 899326
ECA (Secretary)	Chris Richardson	07940 465627
ECA Website	www.ElsenhamCommunityAssociation.org.uk	
Elsenham Eagles	elsenham.action@btinternet.com	
Elsenham Farmers Market	elsenhamfarmersmarket@gmail.com	
Elsenham Surgery	www.elsenhamsurgery.nhs.uk	814730
Elsenham C of E Primary School	Linda Todd Headteacher	813198
Elsenham Church PCC Secretary	David Hill	812397
Elsenham Rights of Way website	www.e-voice.org.uk/erowos/	
Friends of Elsenham School (FOES)	Louise Judd	foespta@hotmail.com
Henham & District Garden Society	Moyra Jackson	647351
History Society	Mike Rea	evhs12@hotmail.co.uk 813634
Member of Parliament	Kemi Badenoch	0207 219 5214
Memorial Hall Bookings		
www.elsenhamcommunityassociation.org.uk/hiring-elsenham-memorial-hall		
Parish Clerk - Fiona Gardiner	parishclerk@elsenham-pc.gov.uk	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 (for Elsenham & Henham)	Petrina Lees	07713 074656
	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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