

Elsenham News



MOTHERING SUNDAY

Sunday 14 March

CLOCKS GO FORWARD

Sunday 28 March

elsenhamnews@hotmail.co.uk

March 2021

75p where sold

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

See p13 for more information on the ECA and an update on the Memorial Hall.

The following groups or activities are suspended until further notice:

Brownies
Community Choir
Life Drawing
Rainbows
Tots & Toddlers
Yoga

Guides
Line Dance
Shape to the Beat
Village Café, tea, coffee and lunch
Zumba

Some groups are meeting online or in a limited way

Beavers and cubs
Church services, Little Fishes and special events (please see page 31)
Elsenham Tennis Club activities (please see page 49)
Elsenham & Stansted Hall Cricket Club training & fixtures (see website)
Kick Boxing (on Playing Field)
WI (online, please see page 21)

Parish Council meetings are being held by Zoom. The next meeting is on **Monday 1 March**. Contact Louise Johnson for information by email on [✉](mailto:louise.epc@gmail.com) louise.epc@gmail.com



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: Thursday
Dates: 11 March and 1 and 22 April

THE NEWS REPORT

From The Editors



Welcome to March edition of *Elsenham News*, another PDF version of the magazine this month in the interests of being Covid-19 aware. Hopefully, this will change soon and we will be able to resume our printed version. In the meantime, clean your phones, tablets and computer screens and settle back to read all about it.

Firstly, a reminder to put your clocks forward on 28 March. It does mean a lost hour in bed for some but heralds the lengthening days and spring is on its way.

Sunday 14 March marks annual Mothering Sunday. Maybe with the restrictions we are experiencing, it might be an idea to try a home-made gift this year. Whilst you are practising your craft skills, the schedule for the annual flower and craft show is published this month, see p27. The show is planned to take place in August. This was cancelled last year so fingers crossed it can go ahead. To see what other horticultural events are planned take a look at p19.

On page 13, you will find the details for the Annual General Meeting on 26 March for the Elsenham Community Association. This is your association so see how you can take part in the meeting.

STOP PRESS: further to Boris Johnson's intended roadmap to end lockdown, the Village Fete is now scheduled for **Saturday 26 June**. See p13 for who to contact.

Other regular meetings this month include Women's Institute, p21 and the Parish Council meeting on 1 March, p7. Whilst our district councillors are not holding surgeries, they are available to chat to you, see p9 for more information.

Daisy May's Farm is in need of support so take a look at p15 to see how you could help. If you want to volunteer to help others, see p41 for St Clare Hospice.

Perhaps you have been affected financially by the pandemic and are in need of help - check out p37 and p49 to see what support might be available to you.

Stay safe and see you next month.

The Editors

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LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Letters must contain the author's name and address (which may be withheld). The Editors reserve the right to allow replies to letters/articles to be made in the same magazine when appropriate. The Editors' decision is final.



Thank you! Thank you Clifford's Farm Shop

I today received a cheque for £292.50 for Saint Mary's fabric fund from the sale of the Posh Parcels. It's especially welcome as the church has been unable to fundraise this last year. Thank you Tina and Robin and all good wishes for the success of your farm shop and café.

Teri Williams
St Mary's Fabric Fund

Revd Brian Green.

We have learned of the death of Brian Green, after several years of failing health, on 12th February. Brian was Vicar of Elsenham from 1969 to 1989.

Many thanks,

Roger Clark
Churchwarden

Dear Editors,

I wanted to let you know that The UK Hair and Beauty awards have nominated me for 'nail technician of the year'. I'm so excited to be nominated for an award, The ceremony will be online on March 31st! For more details about the award, their website is <https://hairandbeautyawards.co.uk/>

Sophie Feddersen



Editors' note: Sophie is one of our regular advertisers and we are keeping our fingers crossed for her. See her advert on p8



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ELSENHAM PARISH COUNCIL 1 FEBRUARY 2021

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



In 2020 the Annual Parish Meeting was cancelled due to lockdown. However, now that all the necessary legislations are in place and many people are more familiar with using Zoom, the Parish Council will be holding the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 22 April 2021. The council hopes that residents will take part to have your say on issues in Elsenham over this difficult year. There will be more information and joining instructions in the next Elsenham News.

The Parish Council was happy to give permission for the annual village fete to be held on the playing field on 5 June 2021.

There are currently no dog waste bins on the Kingswood development. Some residents are disposing of their dog waste in the litter bins in the children's play area, ignoring the 'No Dog Waste' signs. Please do not do this, it is very irresponsible and a health risk to children.

The grass areas on this development are managed by Remus. The Parish Council are in the process of obtaining permission from Remus to install a dog waste bin on their land. When permission is granted, a dog bin can be moved from another position in the village, where there are currently two bins together, and installed on Kingswood. Unfortunately, the Parish Council cannot just buy a new bin as Uttlesford District Council have said they would not accept responsibility for any extra bins in the village but were happy for bins to be relocated.

The Planning Committee had asked Bovis Homes, the development on Hall Road, to consider again about providing a pavement from Church Lane to Elsenham Hall in their section 106 agreement.

Henham Parish Council is bringing a High Court action against the Inspectorate's decision on the Fairfield planning application appeal.

The North Essex Parking Partnership is holding online surgeries. The Parish Council is to arrange an appointment to attend one of these surgeries to discuss the problems with the parking we have in Elsenham, especially during the school's drop off and pickup times.

A new path is being installed in the children's play area, leading from the gate to the first piece of play equipment. This area gets very muddy, other areas around the play equipment and benches will be looked at later in the year to see if they can be improved.

Essex County Council has a Winter Emergency fund of £2,000 per district. This fund is to ensure that families and vulnerable people are supported through the difficult months of the year, plus the additional challenges that Covid-19 has caused.

Progress is being made on ways to improve Grove Hill. Procedures have been identified by which enforcement measures could be installed on the roads approaching Grove Hill. A new national legislation which will be signed off in Parliament, in May 2021, will allow these measures to be carried out.

The next Parish Council meeting is on 1 March 2020 at 8.00pm, via Zoom.

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DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

FEBRUARY 2021

By Cllr Lees and Cllr LeCount

✉ Cllrlecount@uttlesford.gov.uk

✉ Cllrlees@uttlesford.gov.uk

☎ 07836 346717

☎ 816675



Elections are due to be held on Thursday 6 May this year and our staff at UDC are making plans for these polls. Our staff are ensuring that the election day experience is COVID safe. You will have to wear a mask and you may experience some queues. Bring your own pen or pencil. The election is not just the scheduled Essex County Council elections but the postponed Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner election from last May.

We are sure most residents in the villages will be keeping abreast of national and regional news. However, in case residents would like to keep a note, both Uttlesford District Council and Essex County Council provide up to date information as to COVID statistics and applicable restrictions/regulations as well as detailed financial and other assistance which are all accessible through focussed web pages. Individuals and businesses are invited to subscribe to these links below to obtain helpful information and regular updates.

<https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/keepmeposted>

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/topic/support-for-residents>

<https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/6973/Get-help-for-your-business>

<https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/6642/Loans-and-grants>

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/support-for-employers-and-businesses>

Two community testing centres were established in Uttlesford in January. These closed on 23 January and a new fast testing centre was opened for those who DO NOT have symptoms of Covid-19. This new testing centre will be located at Saffron Walden ECL, 39 Audley Road, Saffron Walden, CB11 3HD. These centres are among the first of their kind in the region, offering new and fast Lateral Flow Tests to the wider population. They are able to produce results in around 30 minutes. Tests are by appointment only and bookings should be made online. Anyone booking should live in the Uttlesford district. Tests can be booked here: [📄 https://www.essex.gov.uk/getting-tested-for-covid-19/if-you-dont-have-symptoms](https://www.essex.gov.uk/getting-tested-for-covid-19/if-you-dont-have-symptoms)

Residents can also book by calling ☎ 0333 772 6144 to arrange an appointment. Lines are open from 8am to 8pm every day, including Saturday and Sunday.

Many comments and objections (exceeding 43,000) were received by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in response to the government's consultations regarding "Housing Numbers" and "Planning Reform", which they launched in August last year. We are pleased to say that political considerations have led to the government conducting a U-turn on the way in which additional housing (required to be something in the region of 300,000 per annum) is to be distributed across England and Wales. A possible levelling-up would be to include greater focus on the Midlands and the north, rather than the south.

Continued on pages 11 and 13

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If the algorithm driven approach to housing numbers had remained, then UDC's annual housing requirement would have seen us being required to build something in the region of 1,231 dwellings per annum, however this may now be reduced to around **706** which was the standard of requirement introduced in 2017. Interestingly our average delivery has been **812** over the past three years.

Turning specifically to our local plan and in particular the **Local Plan Leadership Group** ("LPLG"), which is made up of a cross party of elected UDC district councillors. This group continues to meet and has now reviewed and approved the processes involved in "**calls for sites**" and "**areas of search**". The District Council has, as a result, issued a call for sites. This means that anyone may submit a site for consideration if they have the owner's support. The council will then carry out site assessments and reviews as it works towards a draft version of the plan. The deadline for submissions is 5pm on Wednesday 21 April 2021.

The council is encouraging people to submit sites for all types of use. The availability of existing infrastructure will be a major consideration in the eventual allocation of potential sites for large scale development. However, it must be emphasised that any recommendations by the LPLG to the UDC Cabinet will be informed by detailed evidence and of course the input from all parts of the community/stakeholders which will include consultation processes being undertaken through the **Community Stakeholder Forum**. This forum being the initial consultation process regarding Local Plan issues. It will consider and discuss different themes until April 2021. The next Community Stakeholder Forum will be held on **10 March 2021** the theme being, homes and it may be heard live and comments made there and then by way of "chat" or alternatively later by electronic link or by letter. The link is: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VALjG4goSrC2dcaZDog7A

We are sure many of you will be aware funding from central government to local authorities has been reduced greatly over the past few years. To enable vital day-to-day services to continue it has required local authorities to look at other means of income. We have over the past 20 months built up an investment portfolio and just a few weeks ago we completed the acquisition of several commercial properties which have gone a long way to solving the financial challenges. The investments will generate much needed additional income in the years ahead. Further investment in Chesterford Research Park is also planned.

We believe as a District Council we have done all we can to support residents and businesses through this public health emergency, which has come as a significant financial and human cost. By bringing extra commercial income on stream we have moved to mitigate that impact and to ensure we can continue to provide vital services for our residents and businesses. Our strategy was to build up to a £300m portfolio to remove the financial problems the council would have faced over the medium term and these investments in freehold property means we are able to pursue some important initiatives that will be of benefit to our communities.

The purchase of these properties is a direct investment by UDC on the basis that the investment is to generate funds to underpin core service delivery, the council is not undertaking the investment for yield. At time of writing we have just met and allocated over £350,000 for Voluntary Sector Organisation Support Grants.



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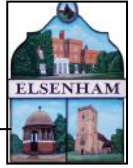
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ELSENHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

By Allan Hathaway ECA Chairman ☎ 813385



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We have been busy in the Memorial Hall – the main hall, kitchen and entrance area have been painted and look much cleaner and fresher. The curtains have been replaced with new rails (activated with a pull cord) and pelmets to match the curtains. These are better quality and will allow users to ‘blackout’ the hall for slide shows or privacy should it be required.

The refurbishment of the toilets is progressing with architects and builders; draft plans have been drawn and the specification is being established as regards colours and styles etc. Most of this will need approval of the trustees but the initial stages are looking promising.

The Prime Minister set out the possibility for England to emerge out of lockdown in various stages. This could mean the hall could be available for hire for limited types of groups from the 12 April and more generally as from 17 May 2021.

FETE: this also means we may be able to hold a Village Fete this year. If nothing changes with the current pandemic rules, the fete will be held on the playing field on SATURDAY 26 JUNE 2021. Please pencil this in your diary and tell all your friends.

Anyone reading this who normally is involved in the fete, please contact Elaine Terry ☎ 07962 586825 or myself ☎ 813385 and inform us if you are able to be involved this year on the 26 June.

AGM: another date for your diary is the Elsenham Community Association (ECA) AGM - 8pm Friday 26 March 2021. Please inform our secretary, Moyra Jackson, if you are willing to continue in your current role or to represent your organisation for the next 12-month period. Please confirm by email to moyra.jackson19@gmail.com

Continued from page 11

Following the recent fatal fire last month in a detached house on an estate in Saffron Walden, which started in the early hours of the morning and claimed the life of a male aged 50 years; Essex Fire & Rescue Service are advising as follows: home owners should make sure they have enough smoke alarms to cover their homes. If they don't have enough, or they are not in the right place, they might not be alerted in time. The vast majority of us now have at least one smoke alarm in our homes, but early detection and warning is vital to reduce the devastation a fire in the home can cause. That's why it is so important for us to have smoke alarms. We should make sure we have at least one smoke alarm on every level of our homes, preferably in hallways and landings. Placing smoke detectors near to sleeping areas and in rooms where there are electrical appliances could give us the extra warning we need. It's also important to remember that smoke alarms don't last forever. The power may work, but the detection mechanism deteriorates with time. So whether they are battery operated or wired to the mains, to work at their best they should be replaced every ten years. For more information about smoke alarms and home fire safety please follow this link: [www.essex.fire.gov.uk/Home Fire Safety](http://www.essex.fire.gov.uk/Home_Fire_Safety)

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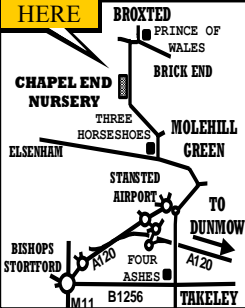
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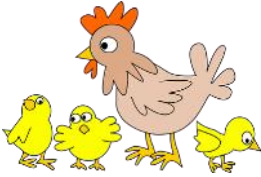


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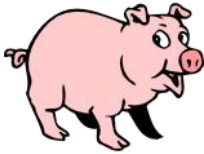
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Well, just when we think life can't throw anything more at us; it rains and rains and that means floods! We got some of our animals moved to higher ground and raised the homes of the smaller animals, so all our lovely creatures are now snug, dry and happy!

The pigs seem to quite like the mud and snuffle about in it most days and as long as they have shelter and food, our horses don't seem that bothered either. Providing there is hay, the goats and sheep don't bat an eye and just keep munching on!

The goats have also been busy, we have three new arrivals and from our naming competition, they are now called Chester and Primrose and as soon as you are able to, do be sure to come and see them, they are soooooo cute! We also have Bambi, a tiny kid born recently, and it was touch and go for her, but with lots of TLC, she is now doing really well.

Things at the moment are pretty dire for us and if you would like to help us, we would be SO grateful. You can help by following the links are below.

[;https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/alison-thomson-920](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/alison-thomson-920)

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Please do look at our Facebook page for updates on our new arrivals (and there are more on the way!) and also some home-schooling ideas, along with our farm news updates.

Thank you for your support.

Don't forget Mothering Sunday on Sunday 14 March 2021

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The latest planning application is for up to 50 dwellings to the south of Bedwell Road, on the area of rough land which was advertised for grazing until recently. Through the anomalies of the boundary, it is actually in Ugley parish, but clearly it would have impact on Elsenham. It is on the other side of Bedwell Road from an application to build up to 220 between the motorway and the railway. If you think that the area looks small for as many as 50 homes, you are right. Part of the answer is that it is proposed to clear a fair amount of the scrub on the Ugley side of the site.

If you also think that the area is close to the motorway, you are again correct. The solution proposed is that three-storey flats would be built on that side in order to baffle the sound. The idea is unimaginably bad - flats are wholly unsuitable to the location, and the inhabitants would be exposed to noise, so their role in effect would be to act as human shields for their more affluent neighbours.

Over in the virtual world, the appeal Inquiry into refusal by Uttlesford District Council of the application to increase the number of passengers per annum at the Airport is under way at the time of writing. It is a mystifying question as to why the Inquiry is being held at all. The current limit is not expected to be reached until 2027 by the most optimistic of predictions. The Inspectorate, however, insisted on going ahead with a virtual event, when a wait of a few months might have allowed a conventional Inquiry with none of the inevitable technical hiccups which interrupt from time to time; 'can you hear me?' is a constant introductory refrain.

The 30-day marathon is often turgid enough, with witnesses invited by their counsel to read out long tracts of the statements which all those involved perused for themselves many days previously. The proceedings are enlivened from time to time when the lawyers have a go at each other, just to keep in practice. 'That's the third leading question in a row' objected one advocate, who had been yawning visibly and repeatedly a day or two previously.

But the same QC performed a nicely judged demolition job on one unfortunate witness for the Airport, tying him in knots to the point where no way of escape seemed visible. To the victim's further discomfiture, both UDC and Stop Standed Expansion were active on the issue of carbon emissions and climate change, and a second tormentor followed with questions of his own; the luckless victim was only able to escape the bonds from his previous monsterring through being reduced to a helpless, hapless jelly and slithering to the metaphorical floor, whereupon the Inspector took pity and declared an interval to give him a chance to resume his proper shape and consistency.

It's impossible to say what the outcome of the Inquiry might be.

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ELSENHAM



ELSENHAM FLOWER SHOW SOCIETY

Sue Johnson ☎ 812704



At our AGM held in January, the Society was pleased to welcome Sue Waite onto the Committee. We now have a Facebook Group, established with a view to exchanging seeds and expertise. Here is what we hope for a little later in the year:

Saturday 22 May – Plant Sale

By the time you read this, we will already have begun to grow our huge range of vegetable and flowering plants ready for the sale in May. The Plant Sale in 2020 was a tremendous success, thanks to the superb organisational prowess of two of our amazing committee members and the growing skills of all!

Any contributions of spare plants are always welcome. All proceeds from the sale will go towards funding our annual Flower Show. Please do let us have any pots (especially smaller ones) you don't need!

Sunday 27 June – Village Open Gardens 1 to 5 pm

We are also very much hoping we will be able to hold our Village Open Gardens, sadly also postponed last year. If you are interested in opening your garden for us at the end of June, please do get in touch. We are on the look-out for new gardens as well as some of our old favourites. It's a really lovely, sociable afternoon and very well worth the effort, both for openers and visitors alike! Again, proceeds from the day will go to help towards the costs of putting on the Flower Show in August.

Saturday 21 August – Elsenham Flower Show

We hope that this year we will be able to hold our Annual Village Flower Show. You will find the show schedule (a repeat of our aborted one from 2020) over four pages starting on page 27. By publishing the schedule now, we give you plenty of time to think about what you could be growing, making or baking! All being well, this schedule will be repeated in the August edition of Elsenham News, which will also include a copy of the entry form.

For newcomers to the village, you will find a good number of different flower, vegetable and fruit classes, as well as baking, produce, flower arranging, handicraft and photography classes. We do try to ensure that the schedule offers opportunities for everyone, including our five different children's classes.

36th
YEAR

GARDEN HINT *By Sue Johnson*

Mulch borders with organic matter, but keep it away from the bark of trees and shrubs, where it may encourage rot.



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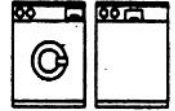
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ELSENHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

By Moyra Jackson ☎ 647351



I write this as Storm Darcy heads our way. My friends in the far east (Frinton!) tell me she is pretty powerful. Hopefully we have all battened down the hatches and it will not be as bad as the 'Beast from the East' – which also happens to be my husband's pet name for me. Far be it from me to retort with a 'Pest from the West' jibe!

Delighted to report that many of our members have not only had their first COVID vaccination but a few lucky ones have had their second ones too. All speak very highly of the whole system from being notified to getting their appointments and are full of praise for the staff at Elsenham Surgery and other vaccination centres in our area. The message remains the same as I write – Stay Home, Protect the NHS, Save Lives.



Our year got off to an amazing start with the effervescent Paulus – The Cabaret Geek. Superb entertainment – we were all transported to Le Chat Noir in 1920s Berlin, and really entered into the spirit with fascinators, feather boas and sparkles aplenty! We had some lovely guests from our neighbouring WI's and our amazing Louise Johnson won the competition for best-dressed Cabaret-style, with Paulus asking her for styling tips!

Next month Jane Lappage will be joining us via Zoom to show us some Faux Calligraphy on Thursday 18 March. The competition is your monogram (initials) in any medium. Our 2021 Centenary Programme can be found on our Facebook page and talking about programmes, I have a copy of our Programme for 1929. The entry for March 1929 (exactly as set out) is:

March 20th

MOTTO – *"To travel hopefully is better than to arrive, and the true success of labour."* (R.L.S.)

LECTURE – The Story of your Village by GURNEY BENHAM, Esq

ROLL-CALL – "What might the Institute do to help the Village?"

COMPETITION – Best raffia buttonhole. Seed potato for October Competition

Dancing. National Savings.

TEA HOSTESSES – MRS SURRIDGE and MISS ORPEN.

More about this in months to come – definitely going to adopt a motto a month!

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings. Our contact details are at the back of the magazine.

Facebook: Elsenham WI Twitter: @elsenhamwi Instagram: elsenham_wi
Email: elsenhamwi@gmail.com

Elsenham WI – There's a lot going on!

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THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

📄 www.hundredparishes.org.uk



At this difficult time, we are fortunate to live in such a lovely area where we can take exercise close to home in attractive and interesting surroundings. One of the local delights is the number of thatched buildings.

Thatch was once the roofing choice of the poor as it was locally sourced, inexpensive and sustainable; now it seems that only the better-off can afford the necessary regular servicing and replacement. Most roofs are thatched with long wheat straw and many are topped out with a decorative straw feature on the apex. These are called straw finials.

Pheasants and foxes are still among the favourites for this tradition that goes back centuries. These finials may once have been installed to keep away birds or even witches, while some may have been the trademark of the individual thatcher. Today, they are more likely chosen by the customer from an online catalogue. They seem to be more abundant and varied than ever.



I have spotted some fine examples around The Hundred Parishes such as the two running hares on a cottage at Ashdon. In Finchingfield and Radwinter you may find families of ducks and there is a large thatched cow on the barn of the Red Cow pub at Chrishall.

You may see a hare on Dick Turpin's Cottage at Hempstead or a galloping horse at Great Bardfield. High Roding has a delightful cat stretching up the chimney stack and a fox chases a hare in Brent Pelham. An eagle has landed in Aythorpe Roding and there is a flying pig in Ugley.

The 16th-century Thatchers pub at Hatfield Heath is appropriately situated on a road that was once part of the route for horse-drawn cartage of wheat from Suffolk to London.



Do keep looking up!

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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ELSENHAM C. OF E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

By Linda Reid, Headteacher



In addition to the challenges arising from COVID-19, this is a period of considerable change and transition for our school more generally.

It has been a huge privilege and honour to serve as the Headteacher of Elsenham C of E Primary School for almost eighteen years. During this period the school has changed a great deal and has gone from strength to strength. It has been particularly rewarding to oversee not just one expansion of the premises but also a second, and more significant and substantial expansion, which has more than doubled the physical space and provided purpose built education facilities, which will serve the children and families of Elsenham for many years to come.

The school has more than doubled in pupil numbers during this period, rising from 121 pupils at the time of the first Ofsted Inspection I undertook as Headteacher in 2004, to the current 316 pupils and it's still growing. The school consistently achieves very high levels of academic and personal success and is recognised for the very high quality education it provides for the pupils who attend. In recent years our school has consistently achieved academic results, which place it in the top 20% of schools nationally. It is now highly regarded, both by the community it serves, and also more widely. It is particularly pleasing that throughout this period the children have been at the heart of all decision making and it has been wonderful to see so many of them succeed beyond expectations.

During this time the support of fantastic staff teams, parents, governors, FOES and everyone involved in our school community, in addition to the pupils themselves, has made a very real difference and contributed to the school's success. I will miss everyone here but feel that the time is now right for me to hand over the reins to a successor; someone who will lead the school forward on to the next stage of its development. This is therefore my final year in post and the Governing Body is in the process of recruiting a new Headteacher for September.

In other staffing news, I am delighted to let you know that Mrs McCraith, our Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Draper, our Assistant Headteacher and Miss Shivers, one of our class teachers are all expecting summer babies and will be taking maternity leave next term. We are delighted for them and their families and wish them all well for the future. The recruitment process is already under way to provide cover in their absence.

We currently have around eighty children in school each day with the vast majority of our pupils taking part in home schooling, supported by online learning sessions. The ongoing commitment of families as well as staff in making this work for the children is truly commendable. We are all looking forward to a time when we can return to a safer and more normal way of working and hopefully there will be better news soon.



ST MARY'S CHURCH ELSENHAM
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It's that time.

March is a great month. The clocks change to summertime and there is the promise of sunny warm days. The vaccines are rolling out at great pace and we can imagine the possibility of actual summer holidays, real and not virtual holidays.



So, there is much change and much promise for the future after a hard winter with Covid-19 and the lockdown struggles. I remember when the vaccines started to roll out that one news reporter spoke of the vaccines bringing salvation through a needle. As more people, especially the vulnerable, get vaccinated, people can breathe a bit of a sigh of relief. I get an annual flu jab and I'm certainly looking forward to my Covid vaccine jab — but this is not salvation through a needle, but a temporary fix to our ongoing battle with mortality. Life is transitory, life is like a fleeting breath.

So much changes. This is my last letter to your magazine as I have come to the end of my 3-year contract and I am moving with my wife Jackie, and our daughter Rebekah, 300 miles north to Carlisle in Cumbria near the Lake District. There is excitement about moving back to an area we know and love and to get involved in a new Christian church family but also genuine sadness at leaving loving friends that we have made in our short time here. We have been loved and supported and have really enjoyed being part of the local church and the local community. But ministers come and go and that is

how it is. Ultimately, we all come and go.

This month we're in the season of Lent but looking forward to the celebration of Easter Sunday. Will we be able to visit friends and family? Lent is a time of reflection which looks ahead to celebrating something truly remarkable, that Jesus Christ, God's Son, died on the cross on our behalf and rose to new life three days later never to die again, which is why we have Easter Sunday. Two thousand years ago, Jesus defeated death and opened up a forever life to those who believe or trust in Him.

I recently read of a remarkable statement from a woman who was suffering from terminal cancer. How would you finish a sentence that begins, "I have six months to live..." She said, "...still, nothing a resurrection won't fix!"

The remarkable truth that Christianity proclaims is that through faith in Jesus and His death on the cross we can share in the victory that Jesus secured and so enter into a forever life where sickness and pain and sorrow and death will be a thing of the past. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."* (John 3 verse 16)

In Christian ministry we've moved around the country and had the delight of friendship enjoyed and the sadness of parting but wherever we go, Christ goes with us by his Spirit, and we look ahead to the time when Christ will gather all his people together. So, because of Jesus, saying goodbye to fellow Christians is never final but rather a "see you later"!

God bless.

Gary Tubbs (soon to be your ex-Associate Minister)



ELSENHAM FLOWER SHOW SOCIETY SHOW SCHEDULE 2021

FLOWER Classes:

(* *Trophy Classes*)

1. Specimen Rose (named if possible), all buds should be removed *
2. 3 Specimen Roses (any variety or varieties), all buds removed *
3. 3 Stems of Floribunda Roses
4. 3 Decorative and/or Ball Dahlia Blooms
5. A Mixed Vase of Dahlias – 5 blooms or more
6. 3 Dahlia Blooms (bedding/dwarf variety)
7. 3 Cactus/semi-cactus Dahlias
8. 5 Stems (each one a different flower) *
9. 9 Sweet Peas *
10. 5 Asters (all singles or all doubles)
11. Vase of 'Shades of yellow' flowers (up to 5 stems)
12. 3 Spikes Gladioli
13. 3 Pansy heads floating in a saucer of water
14. Vase of Sunflowers (3 stems)
15. Vase of Foliage - 5 kinds
16. My Best Bloom *
17. Flowering Pot Plant (not fuchsia, begonia, geranium or orchid) *
- bloom - max. pot size 20cms (8")
18. Foliage Pot Plant - bloom - max. pot size 20cms (8") *
19. Geranium Plant in Bloom - max. pot size 20cms (8") *
20. Bush Fuchsia Plant in Bloom - max. pot size 20cms (8") *
21. An Orchid Plant in bloom - max. pot size 20cms (8")
22. A Begonia Plant in bloom - max. pot size 20cms (8")
23. Succulent/Cactus in container - max. 20 cm (8") diameter
24. Fuchsias – 6 flower heads – mounts for flowers supplied at the Show
25. **CHILDREN ONLY** - A Fan of Leaves, max. A4 size. *
26. EFSS TOP VASE CLASS



VEGETABLE/FRUIT Classes:

All vegetables and fruit shall be of the same cultivar, unless otherwise specified.

27. Herbs - one vase - 3 kinds
28. My Best Herb, as grown (max. pot 15cm (6"))
29. 3 Sweet Peppers (with some stalk attached)
30. 6 Hot / Chilli Peppers (with some stalk attached)

31. 4 Carrots (with 7.5cms (3") tops)
32. 4 Potatoes (coloured)
33. 4 Potatoes (white)
34. 6 Pods of Runner Beans (with some stalk attached)
35. 6 Pods of Dwarf French Beans (with some stalk attached)
36. 1 Lettuce (with root)
37. 4 Tomatoes, not cherry (ripe with stalk)
38. 6 'Cherry' Tomatoes (ripe with stalk) not exceeding 3.5 cm diameter
39. 1 Cucumber
40. 2 Marrows
41. 4 Onions each one 250 grams or under
42. 4 Onions each one over 250 grams
43. 2 Courgettes (10 – 20cms long, or if round, 7.5cm dia. approx.)
44. 5 Shallots
45. 3 Beetroots (with 7.5cms (3") tops)
46. 2 Of the same kind of vegetable not already listed
47. 3 Bulbs of Garlic
48. 1 Vegetable Oddity
49. Heaviest Marrow *
50. Heaviest Onion *
51. Heaviest Potato
52. Longest Runner Bean
53. Longest Stick of Rhubarb
54. Plate of Fruit, not already listed (all fruit with stalks, if possible) max. plate diameter 23 cms (9")
55. Plate of 3 Dessert Apples (fruit with stalks, if possible) max. plate 23cms (9")
56. Plate of 3 Culinary Apples (fruit with stalks, if possible) max. plate 23cms (9")
57. **CHILDREN ONLY** - 'A Potato Head', made from a selection of vegetables and/or fruit; overall height, width and length – 30cm (12")
58. **EFSS TOP TRAY CLASS**

PRODUCE Classes:

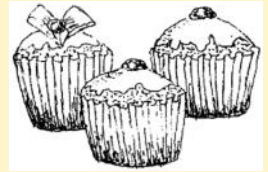
Jars to be filled and covered with clear cellophane tops except Classes 65 and 67.

59. 1 Jar Marmalade
60. 1 Jar Strawberry Jam
61. 1 Jar Raspberry Jam
62. 1 Jar Stoned Fruit Jam
63. 1 Jar Fruit Jelly
64. 1 Jar Lemon Curd
65. 1 Jar Chutney
66. 1 Jar of Preserve, not already listed
67. 1 bottle of Home-made Liqueur (e.g. Sloe Gin)



BAKING Classes:

68. **MEN ONLY** 3 scones *
69. 'Show Stopper', let your imagination run wild.
70. 5 pieces of Shortbread
71. Red Velvet Cake
72. 3 Bacon and Cheese Puff Pastry Wraps
73. Olive Loaf
74. Bakewell Tart
75. **CHILDREN ONLY** - 3 Butterfly Cakes



FLOWER ARRANGING Classes:

All arrangements in the classes must use fresh flowers and foliage. Boards 60cms x 60cms (24" x 24") will be available upon which arrangements must be displayed, with the exception of Class 76. For classes 77, 78 and 79, arrangements must be displayed within the area of the board. No part of the arrangement may exceed the size of the board.

76. A Miniature Arrangement (max. 10cms (4") overall) *
77. 'Afternoon Tea', *no more than three (3) props allowed excluding vase*
78. 'An Oriental Dinner Table Arrangement' *no extra props allowed**
79. 'At the Seaside' *no more than three (3) props allowed excluding vase*

HANDICRAFT Classes:

No exhibit will be accepted which has been exhibited at a previous show, or is more than three (3) years old.

80. An Article in Crochet *
81. A Decorated Box , *max size 15cm x 20cm (6" x 8")*
82. A Hand Knitted Article *
83. An Article in Cross Stitch using Embroidery Silks
84. A Picture in Any Medium (max. size 45cms (18") square)
85. A **Handwritten** Limerick – 'There was an old woman from Mull'
(to be mounted on card measuring 15cms x 20cms (6" x 8"))
86. **CHILDREN ONLY** 'A Decorated Ladybird House' max. size to be 18cm x 33cm (7" x 13")

PHOTOGRAPHY Classes:

Photographs should measure 15cms x 20cms (6" x 8") and labelled, and be mounted on stiff card, measuring no more than 18cms x 23 cms (7" x 9"). Entries must be original photographic images; no computer created pictures will be accepted.

87. 'Street Life'
88. 'Bloom(s)'
89. 'Weather'
90. 'Pond Life'
91. **CHILDREN ONLY** 'Farm Animals'

ELSENHAM FLOWER SHOW 2021
RULES OF THE SHOW

1. Competition is open to all living in the Parish of Elsenham. Outside exhibitors are at the discretion of the committee.
2. Staging from 9am to 10.45am on the morning of the show.
3. Judging is from 11am (Public not admitted to this.)
4. Open to the public 3pm. Admission - £1.
Accompanied children are free.
5. Stewards will remove donated exhibits (see rules 7 and 13) from the show benches at the end of the show (approx. 4pm). An auction will be held for donated exhibits, after which the presentation of awards will be made.
6. Entry money - Each exhibit charged at 40p. For 10 or more entries (total) equals £4.
7. Upon arrival, competitors will be given class cards, each one to accompany each article exhibited. Each competitor will be given an exhibitor's number. Vases, paper plates and saucers will be made available, **with the exception of Class 26**. Exhibits to be retained by competitors will be marked by a coloured sticker on class cards.
8. All exhibits must be grown or made by the exhibitor (with the exception of the Flower Arranging Classes).
9. Only one exhibit allowed in each Class per person. **Please note that only entries with one name per exhibit will be accepted, including Children's Classes.**
10. Children Only entries - free
11. Children may enter main classes, but Rule 6 charges apply.
12. Certificates will be awarded to the first three placings in each Class.
13. **Each** exhibitor must complete an Entry Form. Entry Forms, together with appropriate fees, must be submitted to Sue Johnson by **Sunday, 15 August 2020**. **PLEASE NOTE: ANY EXHIBITS TO BE RETAINED MUST HAVE THE APPROPRIATE CLASS NUMBER CIRCLED ON SUBMISSION OF THE ENTRY FORM.**
14. Additional copies of the Entry Form can be obtained from Sue Johnson, 'Le Touquet', Station Road.
15. The Society will not accept responsibility for any damage caused to exhibits before, during or after the Show.
16. Points for each Class will be awarded as follows: 4 points for a 1st; 3 points for a 2nd; 2 points for a 3rd and 1 point for Highly Commended. The Parish Council Shield will be awarded to the exhibitor gaining most points overall.
17. The judge's decision is final. Awards/points may be withheld from any exhibit of insufficient merit.
18. Trophy winners are responsible for loss or damage to the Society's trophies whilst in their possession. Please ensure that our trophies are covered by your household insurance.
19. No points will be awarded for Class **68**. Children's classes will be scored separately.

Sue Johnson, Secretary, 'Le Touquet', Station Road 📞 812704

While we are in lockdown, there will be no 'physical' services, so there is no service at St Peter's Ugley for the time being. We are still meeting 'virtually'!

Join us for any or all of our Sunday gatherings each week:

HEU Combined Churches Service

Available via the website:

www.heuchurch.co.uk

Or search 'Henham, Elsenham and Ugley' on YouTube

'Zoom Services' at

8:45 and 10:15am

We use the **same link** at the respective times each week. Contact Charles Willbe (c@willbe.me.uk) for the link

HEU Coffee & Catch-up:

11:40am - 12:40pm

A chance to chat and catch up and have fellowship with the church family via Zoom: **same link** each week.

Meeting ID: 771 5918 0523

Password: heuZOOM

Other regular events

St Peter's Ugley Junior Church

Parents are sent out material for each week's session, to be done at home. Term time only.

Elsenham Sunday Club/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.

Henham Sunday Club (age 5-Y3)

We continue to send an audio file, a picture story and activities to parents by email.

Henham Explorers (Y4-Y6)

Not currently running. Contact the administrator to be sent weekly material.

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.

Henham Little Fishes pre-school group

Thursdays, 10.15am

Meeting via Zoom unless restrictions change to enable us to meet physically.

Elsenham Little Fishes pre-school

group Weekly resources provided during term time.

Pathfinders (Y7-9) – Sundays, 6pm

Meeting via Zoom. We'd love to have new members join us!

Crammin' (Y10-Y13) Sun evenings, 7pm

Zoom sessions for an hour including chat; games; and a short bible discussion - until such time as we have a solution for meeting physically again.

World Day of Prayer, Friday 5 March 2021 via Zoom, 11.30am - 12.15pm; Build on a strong foundation (from the Women of Vanuatu)

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world. The order of service will be 'screen shared' but if you would like hard copy, email the church office at office@heuchurch.co.uk with your postal address, and we will get a copy to you. We look forward to seeing you on 5 March.

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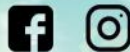
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Farewell to Revd Gary Tubbs By Roger Clark and Rocky Stevens, Churchwardens

In 2016, the Parochial Church Councils of Elsenham, Henham and Ugley decided that in order to further the work of the church in this benefice we needed to employ an Associate Minister, at our own expense, to assist the incumbent, Revd Gary Townsend, with his ever-increasing workload. A major factor in that decision was the number of new homes being built in our villages, some in Henham but the vast majority in Elsenham.

So it was that in 2017 Gary Tubbs was appointed to that role, to assist in the life of the parishes generally, but especially to minister to those moving into the new homes. The appointment was initially for a period of three years, for that was as long as we could guarantee the funding for the post. It caused a little confusion at first with two clergymen called Gary, both with the initials GT, but we soon learned how to distinguish them. Gary came to us with a wealth of experience as a parish priest, mostly in Cumbria, so he was familiar with a rural parish, but found that there were fewer sheep in Essex than in the Lake District.

Gary and Jackie quickly settled in to their new home in Leigh Drive and both were very active in getting to know the new estates and their occupants. With the assistance of many parishioners they knocked on lots of doors, introduced the church to the newcomers and established a relationship between the existing church and its many activities and the new 'Elsenhamites.'

As well as supporting those activities, Gary and Jackie established some new ones, the carol singing around the streets which had not been done for very many years was particularly well received. A church book club was established and more recently a men's Saturday Morning Breakfast.

They played a great part in supporting the Sunday@6 services in Henham, which is aimed at our young people but enjoyed by all ages. Our youth groups, Pathfinders and Crammin, appreciated the vast array of cakes and savouries Jackie provided for supper during the service, and Gary played a key role in nurturing the youth band, so that they were able to lead the evening music on a regular basis.

Gary has proved to be an excellent teacher for both young and old. He and Jackie provided staunch support for the Little Fishes groups for mums and toddlers, helping the regular teams, building relationships with young families and running Christianity Explored groups with those who expressed an interest.

With the changes now taking place in the Benefice it was sadly agreed that we could not renew Gary's contract as Associate Minister. We are pleased that Gary has found a new role, again in the diocese of Carlisle (with all its sheep).

We are all grateful for Gary's ministry amongst us during these last three and a half years and wish him, and Jackie, every success in their new venture.



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ELSENHAM VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

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

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The ongoing Covid restrictions means that our meeting on 10 March has to be cancelled. Nina Gaubert was due to present a talk on “The Great War - Essex Escape Plan,” however, it is hoped that Nina will present in March 2022. The talk is a presentation about the authorities’ plan to evacuate Essex in the event of a German invasion by encouraging the populace to walk out of Essex across the counties into Oxfordshire!

Normally our March meeting would have included the AGM but this will be postponed to our first meeting after restrictions are lifted. Watch this space!

Newer residents of Elsenham may not realise how old Elsenham is. Evidence of an iron age settlement has been found in the valley of the Stansted Brook to the west of Hall Road and the remains of a high end Roman Villa in the same area dating from the second century AD. During the reign of Edward the Confessor (1042 – 1066) Mereuna (or Merunaand), a freewoman and a man called Lestan owned four ‘hides’ of land, each hide able to support one free family and their dependants. This amounted to around 12 acres of meadow, various livestock and a mill altogether worth £6. But by the time of the Domesday survey, when the land was owned by John, nephew of Waleran, the value of the holding had gone up to £8.

In 1086 the Domesday Book recorded that Takeley and ‘Alsenham’ formed part of a ‘densely wooded area of Essex feeding between them 3500 swine’. Alsa wood is the last vestige of this ancient woodland and pre-dates these early settlements. Elsenham has had several names over the centuries, Alsenham, Alseningham, Elsingham and Elsynham to name just a few. These differences are thought to have come about because there were relatively few educated people around able to write and their spelling was not always the best, not to mention their penmanship as anyone who has tried deciphering old records can attest.

Meanwhile, in 1070 the aforementioned John, nephew of Waleran endowed the church to the Abbey of St Stephen at Caen in Normandy. This gift was confirmed by Henry I in 1100, by Henry II in 1154 and Richard I in 1189. Subsequently, during Richard’s reign, Beatrice, Lady Say gave the church to the Benedictine Priory of Walden. The chancel and nave of the present church are thought to date from 1110 having been built on the site of the earlier Saxon church.

Some time later during the 17th and early 18th century the village migrated up the hill towards Elsenham Cross. It was around this time that Elsenham Place and the cottages at the cross were built. It is thought the Crown Inn, then The Rose and Crown was built a little later around 1775.

This is a quick canter through the early years of our village. More information can be found on our website (see address above) and in Elsenham: The First 1000 Years compiled by Ray Franklin. This is no longer in print but is available as a PDF document on CD from Ray for £5 delivered free in the village. An email to the society will secure your copy. Until we meet again.



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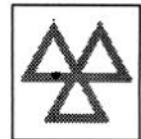
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Coronavirus has made many of these problems worse for a great number of people. Many have seen their income fall. If this has happened to you, we can offer information, support and guidance. Our advice is confidential and costs nothing.

We can help you to access:

- Local foodbanks and children's clothes banks
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HENHAM 10k & 3k FUN RUN



Are you ambitious? Do you want to challenge yourself? Can you walk, jog or run 3k, perhaps even 10k? The Henham 10k and 3k fun run is back – with a difference. Last month there was nothing else listed in the village diary for 2021, so no excuses, join us and help raise money for our lovely village school! Every entrant who completes one of the courses will receive a bespoke medal! Entry fee £5 per person, all profits go to Henham and Ugley village school.



The event is open to all ages - no matter how old or young you are if you feel up for the challenge come along and join us! The 3k route is suitable for pushchairs and wheel chairs but **PLEASE NOTE** there is a gravel driveway section of approx. 300 metres. Well-controlled dogs are welcome to accompany their owner.



The event is open from **June 12 2021 – June 27 2021** - you can walk, jog or run any time between those dates. You can do the course as often as you like and then submit your best time before the deadline of midnight on 27 June. There will be prizes for each age category!

There will be no marshals or water stations but the route will be well signposted and easy to follow.

Encourage all your friends and family members to join in. The numbers allowed to run together will depend on national restrictions at the time, so please keep up to date with all the government guidelines in order to make sure we keep the event safe for everyone!

For more detailed information and to enter, visit www.henham10k.org.uk.

Census reminder: The next census is planned for Sunday 21 March 2021.

Census 2021 will be the first digital-first census. It's easy to do and can be done on any device. You'll get an access code from the Office for National Statistics. Go online and enter the code into our website to get started. We'll be in contact nearer the time to let you know what you need to do.

We're aiming to make it easy for everyone to take part in Census 2021. We'll have an online help for help by phone, webchat, email, social media or text message.

If you can't get online or need help completing the census online, there'll be Census Support Centres across England and Wales. We'll also have guidance in a range of languages and accessible formats.

To plan and fund services we've made a few changes to the questions we ask in Census 2021. We also want everyone to be able to identify as they wish. In 2021, it'll be even easier '

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St Clare Hospice 10k

It's time to get your running shoes out once more for the annual St Clare 10k, taking place starting from the Hospice on Sunday 11 April 2021. Hundreds of runners are expected to join us once again for the yearly Essex 10k road race.

Advance entry is £14 (£12 for affiliated runners), or an additional £3 on the day (£17 non affiliated runners and £14 for affiliated runners). Please note, participants must be aged 15 years or above. For more information on taking part in this fun event visit the Hospice website at stclarehospice.org.uk/stclare10k2021 or get in touch with St Clare Hospice Events Fundraiser Emma Broadbent  01279 773754 or  emma.broadbent@stclarehospice.org.uk

Compassionate Neighbours celebrates three years of friendship

West Essex and East Hertfordshire charity, St Clare Hospice, is celebrating the third anniversary since the launch of its social movement project, Compassionate Neighbours – a project which is connecting communities, building community resilience and helping to prevent social isolation.

Compassionate Neighbours is an award-winning project which aims to help tackle loneliness within local communities. Since the project started at St Clare Hospice, in 2018, it has trained 166 volunteers to become Compassionate Neighbours, who each give an hour a week to offer social and emotional support to others who are isolated.

The Compassionate Neighbours are 'matched' based on common interests, lifestyles and experiences and both parties benefit from a mutual, supportive relationship as friends.

The project is actively recruiting volunteers who are able to spare time to bring friendship to the lives of people who are lonely and socially isolated. Regular training sessions are being run, currently via online meeting platform Zoom and volunteers are DBS checked prior to becoming Compassionate Neighbours. Volunteering as a Compassionate Neighbour is a rewarding role where people can build genuine friendships by calling or meeting a local, socially isolated person every week. For more information on how people can access support, through friendship, and to find out more about becoming a Compassionate Neighbour visit: <https://stclarehospice.org.uk/wellbeing-hub/compassionate-neighbours/>

St Clare Hospice is a charity providing specialist palliative care for people living with terminal or life-limiting illnesses across West Essex and East Herts border. We care for patients and their families, providing physical, emotional, social, psychological and spiritual support, and ensuring they have timely access to skilled, compassionate and sensitive care in a place of their choice. Our services are free of charge to those who need our care, but cost over £4.6 million a year to run. With limited NHS funding we need to fundraise the majority of this each year through donations and other voluntary sources.



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CM22

NATURAL OUTLOOK ON VILLAGE SIGHTINGS

By Heather Salvidge 📞 814153



Writing this, it looks as though I shan't get a March birdwatching trip to the coast to see old favourites and maybe learn a new one or two so I'll check up on what is around Elsenham.

Thanks to news from a competent birdwatcher I have added a new bird to my 'Elsenham list'. It is the common gull and has been seen on the playing field either with other different sorts of gulls or on its own. Common gulls are rounder and more upright than, say, black headed gulls or herring gulls. They are longer in body length than the former but shorter than the latter. Adults have very dark eyes and a very white head which has grey streaks in winter and a shortish round, white neck. Their legs are greenish yellow most of the year but darker in the winter as is the bill which is yellow in summer. Their backs are grey and the tips to the wings are black. The way it struts reminds me of Mr McKay, the bossy prison officer in the Ronnie Barker sitcom, 'Porridge'. My friend first clocked this common gull some ten years ago but it was a new Elsenham one for me. This year it has been accompanied by carrion crows, usually four, sometimes by a pied wagtail and on one or two occasions by up to eight magpies. So quite a black and white collection on the playing field when not in use for recreational purposes.

If when you are out, you look up you might see either a buzzard or a red kite as they will be more active by now. Buzzards fly singly or, by now, as a pair. They are shades of brown and look rather like eagles but much smaller. They have broad wings with rounded ends and "fingers" of feathers and a fan-shaped spread out tail seen from below when 'soaring' on thermal currents with their wings spread out in a shallow V shape. You also see them perching on telegraph poles, standard lamps or fence posts by the roadside, watching for prey.

Fairly recently they nested in Alsa Wood on the west side of the M11. Red kites have not been around here for as long as buzzards but are now a familiar sight having moved in from the west. They are elegant birds, they have grey heads shading down to rufous backs and wings and feathered 'leggings' atop short bare yellow lower legs and talons. Seen from underneath when in flight, adults have rufous bellies and stripes on the forewing edges, then a dark stripe and a wider grey one and black wing tips. Their wings are far more slender than buzzards' and they have deeply forked tails which is used to help steady flight or a glide. It feeds on insects, offal and refuse i.e. road-kill.

A real treat for me would be to see the local kingfisher, possibly by Abbotsford Bridge in Hall Road and an even bigger one would be to see the grey wagtail there as well. These birds are the same shape and size as pied wagtails but have grey heads with a white eye stripe, grey backs and yellow chests and bellies. Females are paler and don't get a black bib in summer. But the next big bird to look out for is a raven, reported to have been seen around Elsenham Hall!

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Elsenham Youth Football Club - update from 2000

In early 2000 a leaflet came through local doors to inform about the start of a junior football club. My son was six and keen. In June, we went to the Recreation Ground and he participated in the first-ever training session of Elsenham Youth FC.

Fifty children attended that first session, from which three teams were formed. Today, that number has grown to 20, with more than 250 registered players. About 60 future talents attend our popular Soccer Tots section. Such expansion has brought about an increase in infrastructure. The playing field remains the club's main base, we also have a site near Stansted Airport, a new lease agreement signed recently with the new owner plus a wonderfully maintained mini-soccer pitch at Rickling.

It would not be possible without the hard work of many. Each team requires at least two coaches. At least one needs an FA Level 1 coaching badge and both must be DBS checked. These are requirements as an FA Charter Standard club. This is a huge amount of work ensuring that we have done all that the FA requires. Add the secretarial load, the finances, kit requirements etc, and you can start to appreciate the efforts from our volunteers. Why do these people give up their spare time you may ask? Go to the playing field on a Saturday morning. The sea of smiling little faces says it all. The pandemic has stopped that for now, but as soon as the restrictions go, those smiles will return, that much is guaranteed.

The future? As the population of the village and immediate surrounding areas expands, we will need to grow. And while finding land to build houses might be easy, gaining new football sites most certainly isn't. Local governing bodies are aware of the dilemma and the Football Foundation has developed a local plan for Uttlesford that will hopefully lead to the provision of more playing space. We will work with them towards meeting that aim, and until then will continue to do as much as we can with the limited facilities at our disposal. Yes, much has changed in 20 years. One of the few things that hasn't has been our motto: whatever else you do on the pitch, be sure to have fun! We aim to ensure that our children will continue to do so for the next 20 years and beyond.

Paul Jarvis. Chairman, Elsenham Youth



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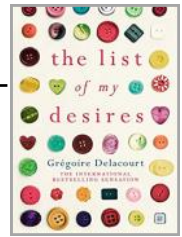


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THE LIST OF MY DESIRES by Gregoire Delacourt

Reviewed by Marion Giles



'Money can buy you freedom. But what about happiness?

When Jocelyne looks at herself in the mirror, she sees a middle-aged, married woman who runs a dressmaking shop in a small provincial French town and lives a very ordinary existence. But what happened to all those dreams she had when she was 17?

Then she wins millions on the lottery and has the chance to change her life for ever. So why does she find herself reluctant to accept the money? To help her decide what to do, she begins to compile a list of her heart's desires, never suspecting for one moment that the decision might be taken out of her hands.' So says the blurb on the back of the book.

Reviews:

This though-provoking debut from Gregoire Delacourt is a huge bestseller in France. **GOOD HOUSEKEEPING**

This was the choice for the book group this month. Chosen because the cover is tactile and the chooser rather likes buttons!

There is much to love about this tale and it is a short read. The author is a man and the main character is a woman but we all felt he had found an accurate voice. Her 'desires' as well as her hopes, sadness and disappointments were beautifully, naturally and sensitively described.

In the main, this was a hit with all of us. It would be too much of a plot spoiler to say what the sticking point was for us so you will have to read it to find out and make your own mind up. Suffice to say there is a twist with a gentle but insistent build up signposting that something would happen but what? For many of us, the tale lost some sparkle after that but we all wanted to continue to read such was the strength of the characterisation.

On the whole, Jocelyne is happy with her life: her blog, her factory-worker husband, her children, her friends who dream of winning a fortune. So when she wins the Euromillions jackpot, she keeps it secret, writing a list of simple desires. She wants to be cautious.

So you could view this as a cautionary tale about what happens when someone unexpectedly comes into possession of a cheque for 18 million euros. It is also about love and loss of love and the effects of betrayal and abandonment. It is also about a woman at the crossroads of her life and whose list of desires changes over time as circumstances dictate. Did she finish the last list?

The book 'felt' very French and it is hard to say what made it so. The translation was seamless and it read much as a book written in English would.

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The pandemic has had a significant impact on the Uttlesford economy, resulting in more unemployment than we have seen for decades, and the loss of many businesses.

The Economic Development team at UDC, is dealing with businesses all day every day, many of them very distressed about the challenges they are facing. If you are speaking to one of your local businesses and feel they could do with a bit of extra support please do let them know that we are here.

There are many businesses with the same questions but also a wide range of newly developing different challenges. We may have access to information, new projects coming on stream or we are able to refer them to specialist business support agencies if we cannot help them ourselves.

Please refer them to the Economic Development Team business@uttlesford.gov.uk.

We are also keen to promote skills and training opportunities which may be of interest to both our business community and our residents. Businesses need to obtain all the support they are entitled to and we will be running a monthly page in the Saffron Walden Reporter and Dunmow Broadcast to flag up what help is on offer. **We are aware that these publications do not reach across the whole district but** know that many businesses are struggling at the moment and want to spread the word that the UDC Economic Development team are here to help.

Contact Linda Howells or Sarah Lewin
Business Support, Uttlesford District Council
Tel: 01799 510510 Direct Dial: 01799 510521

ELSENHAM TENNIS CLUB

By Petra Studholme 📞 814667



Elsenham Tennis Club – closed until lockdown ends but we will keep you posted.

The best way to keep up to date is via our website www.elsenhamtennisclub.co.uk or our Facebook page. We are hoping to be able to resume play after the current lockdown restrictions are lifted.

Our new season starts on 1 April 2021

Hopefully, we will be able to get some play before then; but our new season starts in April. Our membership fees are amongst the lowest in the area and we do have floodlights that allow us to play until 10.30pm as well as regular club nights, competitive league play (including inter-club), ladies' mornings and coaching (individual and group lessons). To find out more you can get in touch via Facebook or mail@elsenhamtennisclub.co.uk.

Coaching: We are incredibly lucky to have our dynamic and experienced head coach Steve Smith who gives individual and group lessons for all ages and playing standards.



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STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

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



The club is very much looking forward to the new season which hopefully will start soon after Easter. We are looking forward to seeing all of our members and hopefully a few new ones. You are all welcome – we have two lovely grounds and a very good spirit within the club. We can take children from the age of 5 years who will join our ECB 'All Stars' programme.

Due to the generosity of our members, parents and other fundraising events the club has come through the last year in a relatively stable financial position. Unfortunately our two quizzes were cancelled during the winter months. Not only are they enjoyable evenings but the club usually raises in excess of £2,500. However, the club has raised money through the ECB and Uttlesford District Council to make up the shortfall.

So onto this season. The junior section will continue to take children from the age of 5 years in the 'All Stars' scheme. It's great on a Friday evening to see children, parents, and grandparents down at the club enjoying the sunshine and having a beer (not the children!!!). We will be arranging matches at various age groups and playing most of them at Molehill Green.

The seniors will be playing in the Herts & Essex Border League Premier Division and Division 2. The good news is that it is a local league so travelling to away matches is minimal. The Sunday XI will be made of adult players along with youngsters who are progressing into senior cricket.

The club has noted that another 449 houses are to be built in and around the village. We feel that we are ready to take on more members but our facilities at Molehill Green do need improving – a two bay cricket net would be ideal so that the young players could practise whenever they want to.

Anybody wanting to join the club in any capacity please contact me on ☎ 07788 999663.

ELSENHAM BOWLS AND SOCIAL CLUB

By Sue Waite ✉ suewaite2003@yahoo.co.uk



Hello everyone, here is a gentle reminder of all that Elsenham Bowls and Social club will offer you when we reopen in the not too distant future. Join the club and become a playing member and enjoy the delights of playing on our green. The outdoor playing season begins in April. You can either play competitive bowls or join in with our friendly games - there is always good company and friendly banter. Or choose to become a social member and enjoy the delights of our bar and the events that we run throughout the month such as Darts, Crib, Bingo, Quiz nights and much more. We hope that we will be seeing you all again very soon.
Stay safe.

Paddy McKeown



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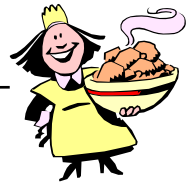
FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Funerals:

- Service of Thanksgiving on 8 February 2021 at Parndon Wood Crematorium, Sylvia Mary Martin, aged 87 years, of Robin Hood Road, Elsenham
- Service of Thanksgiving on 17 February 2021 at St Mary's Church, Henham, followed by a burial at Henham Cemetery, John Michael Goebel, aged 85 years, of Crow Street, Henham.
- Service of Thanksgiving on 18 February 2021 at St Peter's Church, Ugley, followed by a burial in the churchyard, Jill Grimshaw, aged 85 years, of Coney Acre, Rickling Green.
- Service of Thanksgiving on 23 February 2021 at Cam Valley Crematorium, Great Chesterford, Barbara Haslam, aged 84 years, of New Road, Elsenham.

COOKERY CORNER

By Sue Johnson ☎ 812704



A mixture of white and smoked fish can be used for this family supper dish. One of my all-time favourite recipes ever!

MIXED FISH PIE (serves 4)

- 300g pack mixed fish (salmon, haddock, smoked pollock)
- 150g pack large king prawns
- 2 hard-boiled eggs, sliced (optional)
- ½ pint (300ml) milk
- 1lb potatoes, peeled and cut into medium size chunks
- 2oz (50g) butter
- 1oz (25g) plain flour
- 2oz (50g) cheddar cheese, grated
- 1 bay leaf

Place the fish in a pan with milk and bay leaf. Slowly bring to boil over moderate heat. Cook for about 5 minutes. Remove fish to an ovenproof dish, reserving the cooking juices. Top with prawns and the hard-boiled eggs (if using).

Meanwhile, melt half the butter in a pan. Add the flour and cook for 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Remove the pan from heat and gradually add the reserved cooking juices, stirring vigorously. Stir in some black pepper to taste. Cook the sauce for 2-3 minutes. Pour the white sauce over the fish in the dish.

Meanwhile, cook the potatoes in a pan of boiling water for 10 minutes. Mash with remainder of the butter and half the cheese. Spoon the mashed potato mixture on top of the fish and sauce, sprinkle over the remaining cheddar.

Bake in the oven at 200°C/180°C fan/gas mark 6 for 30 minutes, until the fish is bubbling and the topping nice and golden. Serve straight from the dish.

CHEF'S RECOMMENDATIONS: You can make the fish pie ahead of time, bake for about 10 minutes longer from chilled. Serve with peas, broccoli or spinach. The best mixed fish can be found at the wonderful fishmongers at Eat 17 in Potter Street, Bishop's Stortford. Packs are also available in the supermarket with any luck.

With apologies to my Elsenham WI friends with whom I shared this same recipe only a little while ago.

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

Sunday 21 March - 2021 Census

6 May - elections: Essex County Council and Police Crime Commissioner

Saturday 26 June - Village Fete - 1-4pm

VILLAGE CONTACTS

Airport Roadside Parking		0800 731 2385
Beavers	Jackie Weston	816282
Bowls Club	Jean Platt	816151
Brownies	Jennifer Jarvis	814434
Church Office (Old Frank's, High St, Elsenham)	Anna Hicks	814285
County Councillor (Stansted)	Ray Gooding	813103
Cricket Club	David Brown	831011
The Crown pub	info@thecrown.info	814444
Cub Scouts	Linda Gleeson	850504
Cycling Club (Victoria CC)	Doug Yareham	07884 040892
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
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 opposite for details.



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