

# Elsenham News

*The weather is improving so maybe it's time to plan to be outdoors. Maybe our contributors can help you!*



*See page 33*

*See page 15*



**Essex**  
Wildlife Trust



*See page 24*

*See page 13*



[elsenhamsnews@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:elsenhamsnews@hotmail.co.uk)

March 2024  
75p where sold

## Elsenham Village Regular Monthly or Quarterly Activities

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

## March 2024 diary

Mon 4	Parish Council Meeting	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Tues 5	Henham & District Garden Soc	Memorial Hall 2 for 2.30pm
Tues 5 & 19	Elsenham Community Choir	Village Hall 7pm
Fri 8 & 22	Church Lunch Club	Memorial Hall 12.30pm
Sat 9 & 23	Bingo	Bowls & Social Club 7 for 7.30pm
Mon 11	Natter Night	The Crown 7.30pm
Tues 12	District Councillors' Surgery	Orwell House, Station Road Elsenham, 6.30pm
Tues 12 & 26	Life Drawing	Village Hall 7.30pm
Wed 13	History Society AGM	Memorial Hall 7.45 for 8pm
Thurs 14	ECA AGM	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Sat 16	B&SC Quiz	Bowls & Social Club 7.30pm
Tues 19	St Mary Fabric Fund AGM	Old Frank's, High St, 7pm
Thurs 21	WI	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Mon 25	Elsenham Eagles	The Crown 7.30pm
Fri 29	Village Good Friday	Memorial Garden 1.30pm
Fri 29	Good Friday Ramble	Memorial Garden 2.15pm
Sat 30	Elsenham Farmers Market	Village Hall 12.30 - 2.30pm
Sat 30	Beatles Tribute	Bowls & Social Club 7.30pm



**Mobile Library**  
**Every third Thursday stopping at Glebe End**

**11.50 am to 12.20 pm**

**7 and 28 March**

## Elsenham Village Regular Weekly Activities

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



Meeting friends and having a catch up is such a lovely way to spend time, and did you know that you can do exactly this at our monthly Farmers Market? We have the most fabulous barista coffee, thirst quenching home produced apple juice, and cold pressed homemade juice shots; anything you buy from our lovely sellers, you can enjoy seated inside. You could perhaps treat yourself to some incredible cakes, wonderful savouries such as quiches, sausage rolls, scotch eggs, cheese toasties, or perhaps purchase some moreish sourdough bread and English cheeses to enjoy at home – we have it all covered!

The Markets will be on at Elsenham Village Hall (next to the school) from 12.30-2.30pm as follows:

24 February

30 March

27 April

25 May

29 June

We now have around 12-14 different sellers on a regular basis, and they are all local, fledgling businesses, plus any profit from market pitch fees is donated to charity; so you can shop with a conscience!

You can find almost everything there to treat yourself to an amazing meal and it's only once a month, so go on, you know you want to and you definitely deserve it!

We look forward to seeing you.

No charge for entry; just enjoy and immerse yourself in all the gorgeous produce!

Best wishes,

Elsenham Farmers Market Team

# THE NEWS REPORT

From The Editors



Last month we highlighted the many societies and clubs in and around the village that bring so much enjoyment for so many villagers.

This month we highlight some of the outside activities you can enjoy and, with the weather slowly improving, now would be a good time to start planning how to enjoy our surroundings.

Elsenham has always had good access to so many different activities and as the village has grown, so has the choice.

We hope you get a chance to enjoy some of the organisations featured this month and last, it's all part of the joy of living in Elsenham.

If you are involved with an organisation or club that does not appear in our publication on a regular basis, we would love to hear from you. One of our objectives is to promote our village societies, so please don't let yours go unpublicised!

As always, we have our regular features and contributors and we are glad to have them. If you have any ideas on new articles you would like to see, please let us know. Additionally, if you would like to contribute something on a regular basis, we would love to hear from you.

We hope you enjoy our March issue.

## ***Environmental tip for the month:***

Use public transport wherever possible (see page 33)

## **Regular features**

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# ELSENHAM PARISH COUNCIL FEBRUARY 2024

By Louise Johnson, Clerk. ✉ [louise.epc@gmail.com](mailto:louise.epc@gmail.com) ☎ 07456 791727



Teresa Buglass, the Practice Manager of Stansted and Elsenham Surgeries, came to the Parish Council meeting to answer questions on the merger of the two surgeries. The financial merger will take place on 1 April with the clerical merger on 16 April, this is the day when Elsenham and Stansted surgeries become one. The doctors may swap between the two surgeries, giving them a chance to get to know all the staff. Patients will be able to use either surgery, apart from having minor surgery, which will have to take place at Stansted. Teresa confirmed that there has not been, nor will be, any redundancies due to the merger.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would write to Uttlesford District Council regarding the fiasco of the waste collection service. This is totally unacceptable with many residents very angry. The Parish Council would also like to know if residents that pay extra to have their garden waste collected, would be receiving a rebate. The main reason for this shambles was the District Council did not have a qualified transport manager and therefore their licence was revoked. Going forward Elsenham Parish Council would like the District Council to have two qualified transport managers, so this health and safety issue is less likely to happen again.

At the meeting on 8 January 2024, the Parish Council agreed to increase the precept from £85,500 to £125,000. At the February's meeting the Finance Committee recommended increasing it further to £150,000, for two reasons. The extra £25,000 would be used to pay for preparation work of the new community centre. Including residents' consultation, refining project details, preparing a business plan and developing a loan application. Increasing the precept in 2024-2025 would mean the increase in 2025-2026 would not have to be so large. Therefore, increasing the precept in two smaller steps rather than one large step. The Parish Council agreed to the increase, although the vote was not unanimous.

The Annual Parish Meeting is to be held on Thursday 25 April 2024 at 8.00pm in the Memorial Hall. This is a meeting for residents to have their say on their village. Our District Councillors and our Essex County Councillor will give reports and answer any questions.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England are carrying out a consultation. One of the proposals is to add a new division in Uttlesford. At present, Uttlesford has four county council divisions: Saffron Walden, Stansted, Thaxted and Dunmow. It is proposed to increase the number of divisions to five, with a new division of Takeley. Elsenham and Henham parishes would be transferred from Stansted division into Thaxted division. It was agreed to respond to the consultation by pointing out that Elsenham has far more links with Stansted than Thaxted. These include, school, shops, doctors' surgery, and a library.

***Continued on page 15***





## DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

✉ [CLlrDonald@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:CLlrDonald@uttlesford.gov.uk)

☎ 07941 880279

✉ [CLlrlees@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:CLlrlees@uttlesford.gov.uk)

☎ 07713 074656



The Council sincerely apologises for the inconvenience that has been caused by the waste collection service. Residents rely on the Council for their bins to be collected and the current level of service has been inadequate – whereas in normal times it is one of which we are rightly proud, as our in-house team of drivers and loaders work genuinely hard over long days and in all weathers.

The issue has been over the Council's operators' waste licence. Under the terms of the licence, an organisation must have a qualified transport manager. The UDC transport manager left in July and the Council were given a 6-month grace period by the Traffic Commissioner whilst it sought to put a new manager in place. Another member of staff had undertaken the required training and tests and was awaiting results. I am afraid that the Council did not properly regulate its position with the Traffic Commissioner in this interim period. As a result, the Council's licence was revoked. Meaning that it was unable to put vehicles on the road. An interim extension was not obtained, and this avoidable error is unacceptable. Back-up plans were started through a patchwork quilt of working together with other councils and private operators.

The Council has now appointed an interim manager and the interim licence was approved after the Traffic Commissioner's office had followed proper procedures and due diligence. As we write this, we hope that when this magazine is delivered, normal schedules have been resumed. Accountability is important, and we are determined to get to the bottom of how this happened, and we will ensure that the Chief Executive takes appropriate management action, ensuring lessons are learned and applied, not just in the Environmental Services but more broadly across the whole Council. The review will be brought back to all councillors, for robust testing and it will happen in weeks not longer. We would like to thank you all for your patience and kindness thought this difficult time.

We still have ward Initiative funding available, so please ask.

Next month we will be reporting on our ambitious budget proposals for 2024/2025, The draft budget has extra provision built in for more bin crews and lorries in the waste collection service, more money to tackle the climate crisis, ongoing support for vulnerable residents, more money for disabled facilities grants and extra for exciting new social housing projects. The report and papers can be viewed on the website [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/budget](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/budget).

Although UDC sends out Council Tax Bills, it doesn't keep all the money – it keeps about 9p in every £1 collected. Essex County Council about 71p, Essex Police about 11p and the Fire Service about 4p and the town and parish councils 5p on average.

Our Next Surgery is on Tuesday March 12 at 6.30pm at Orwell House, Station Road, Elsenham.

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## DEVELOPMENT DEVELOPMENTS

By *Graham Mott* ☎ 812516 ✉ [motts@grahammott.plus.com](mailto:motts@grahammott.plus.com)



A hearing was held under the S62A Regulations into the application to build 40 homes with access off Robin Hood Road rather than Rush Lane. Uttlesford District Council did not object; they sent a planning officer along, who said what little she had to say ineffectively, and was matched by Essex Highways' officer who also offered no objection with little conviction. It was left to the lone representative of the Parish Council to point out that, actually, there is a large issue as to whether the planned access is really viable, given the narrowness of the road, the planned new footway, the 'one-way working' over the narrowest stretch, and the constant stream of heavy traffic if the development is approved.

The Parish Council's embattled standard-bearer also pointed out that the new access is proposed from the existing turning head at the end of Robin Hood Road, and the plan showed 'new turning head', but without actually depicting it. The applicants' transport consultant, who insisted that he has thirty (or possibly forty) years' experience of this sort of thing and therefore couldn't possibly be wrong, maintained that it was shown; whereupon Essex Highways took courage, spoke up and said, no it wasn't. At this point the developers suggested that now would be an ideal time for a five-minute adjournment, which was granted, and so they took fifteen. There are many ways in which applications are skewed in their favour - no-one else would be allowed a break in order to get their act together. When they came back, they announced, without the hint of an apology or acknowledgment, that there would be no new turning head, since anyone who wanted to turn round could drive into their new estate and find somewhere in there - but it wasn't up to them to say whereabouts that might be.

The main speaker was softly spoken, and the Uttlesford microphones were as erratic as usual (when he remembered to turn his on, which wasn't often), so that there was much uncertainty as to what he actually said. But it seemed that he objected to any contribution to the Community Hall, and for good measure added that they saw no reason to make any health or education contributions either, citing what he claimed were good legal precedents. Uttlesford had neither the time nor the expertise on hand to refute him, and another illustration of the bias in developers' favour was offered.

Any time you're wearing footwear suitable for mud, do take a walk along the public right of way through the Vistry site, starting at the Hall Road end about fifty yards or so from The Crown and you will be escorted through the site. Keeping the public footpath open is well managed; elsewhere they have not done so well.

There are four outstanding conditions which should have been discharged before they started work. UDC have promised that their 'Enforcement' team is on the case, and that they have powers to close the site down if compliance is not forthcoming. Somehow, I doubt that will happen - they will wriggle and twist and give this reason and that promise. One way or another, developers always have the last word. But not here.

# Elsenham Bowls & Social Club

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March  
7.30 for 8pm

## Quiz Night

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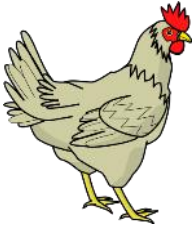
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## Daisy May's Farm

Hall Road, Elsenham, CM22 6DN

Cor, it's been a bit blowy lately and whilst it makes a bit of a mess of our farm, our gorgeous animals are all lovely and snug and looking forward to having lots of visitors come and make a fuss of them.

Our small animals are cosily tucked away in the Woodland area and are absolutely loving being amongst the trees near the snuffly pigs. There really is so much for you to do at the farm now, including riding on our train through the woods, meeting the new lambs and kid goats, holding chicks and ducklings, a woodland trail, warm drinks and snacks to enjoy, seasonal arts and crafts and more!

We have all sorts of chickens, ducks, guineafowls, turkeys, and geese and don't forget, we often have chicken and sometimes duck eggs for you to buy. Come on down to our farm, blow those cobwebs away, and meet all the new additions who will be born over the coming months. Check our Facebook page for updated news on our latest arrivals, our opening hours and for any events such as our **Hatch a Chick** scheme which is now up and running again.

We always need help in so many ways, particularly at times like this 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. We look forward to welcoming you to the farm.

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](http://www.daisymaysfarm.org) to find out more. Thank you so much.

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## Newport & District Flower Club

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Our aim is to encourage the love of flowers with an atmosphere of fun and friendship. Members are offered a full programme of demonstrations and workshops. No flower arranging skills are necessary. Come along and enjoy watching very talented floral demonstrators produce amazing arrangements that are raffled off to lucky members of the audience. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month (except January, August and December) - 7.30 for an 8pm at Ugley Village Hall, Cambridge Road, CM22 6HR. Visitors are always welcome to attend our meetings - £7.50 includes tea/coffee and biscuits.

Our March 20 club night will be a workshop. Everything will be provided to make a seasonal arrangement to take home. Step by step instructions and a modest fee for materials. Why not come along!





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### WHAT IS THE TOUCHPOINT COMMUNITY FOOD SHARE?

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

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

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

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

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

☎ 07572 114882  
✉ [info@thetouchpoint.org](mailto:info@thetouchpoint.org)  
🌐 [www.thetouchpoint.org](http://www.thetouchpoint.org)



# THE AUBREY BUXTON NATURE RESERVE

By John Welham, Warden

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



**Essex**  
Wildlife Trust

The reserve is already showing the first signs of spring, brought on by the warm weather for this time of year. The hazel trees have catkins hanging from the branches. These are the male flowers. The female flowers are there too, but these are much smaller red buds. The birds too are thinking of spring and many are actively looking at nest sites. I watched a pair of magpies collecting sticks and seemingly exchanging views on what were the best ones. The winter visitors are still here however, and we were delighted to see a flock of redpolls feeding on the birch seeds. They will be building up their energy reserves as much as possible before migrating northwards. They bring the bird species count for birds over the last 12 months to 32.

The volunteers tackled a large tree that had fallen across the middle pond. We sawed through the trunk to leave the root ball on the far side and then gradually hand winched the tree across the pond sawing it into sections as it came. I must say we rather enjoyed it!

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## ***Continued from page 7***

The Parish Council gave their permission to ECA for the installation of an electric vehicle charging point on Elsenham Playing Field, adjacent to Elsenham Memorial Hall. The point would comprise of one pedestal with two charging sockets.

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The next Parish Council meeting will be Monday 4 March, 7.45pm in the Memorial Hall. All members of the public are welcome.

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## **From The Parish Registers**

### **Burial of Ashes:**

On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024 in Henham Cemetery, Lesley Thelma Best.

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

Vicar	01279 850480 louis.wilson@heuchurch.co.uk	Rev. Louis Wilson
Church Office	01279 814285	Anna Hicks
Church e-mail	<a href="mailto:office@heuchurch.co.uk">office@heuchurch.co.uk</a>	
Church web-site	<a href="http://www.heuchurch.co.uk">www.heuchurch.co.uk</a>	

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

## Keeping warm this winter

citizens  
advice

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

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

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

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ELSENHAM





# NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

By Frances Lambert ✉ franceslambertnhw@btinternet.com



## WATCH OUT FOR THE SCAMMERS

### Mail Scams

Common types of postal scams include fake lotteries and prize draws, offers of investments, inheritance windfalls, health cures and clairvoyant letters.

### Telephone Scams

Common telephone scams include investment, pension or computer support. The person calling is often extremely professional and may pretend to be from a trusted organisation such as your bank, the police or another company you recognise. The caller may have some of your information to make them seem genuine.

### Doorstep Scams

Criminals pose as legitimate businesspeople selling goods or services that are faulty, unnecessary, overpriced, poor quality or non-existent.

### How to protect yourself and others

Say 'No' to unwanted, uninvited callers.

If an offer seems too good to be true, it probably is.

Don't feel pressured to make a decision, take your time and seek advice.

Be wise to postal scams, no genuine company will ask for money to claim a prize.

Keep your personal details safe, always make sure the person you are talking to is genuine and from a legitimate company.

Be online savvy, criminals can replicate genuine companies. Don't open links or attachments in emails if you are unsure who the sender is.

Talk to someone you trust if you're suspicious.

Anyone can be a scam victim. If you spot a scam, always report it. For more information visit [www.FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk](http://www.FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk) in England & Wales.

Report a scam to Action Fraud on ☎ 0300 123 2040. If you need advice on fraud contact Citizens Advice on ☎ 0808 223 1133.

### Why do people respond to scams?

To get people hooked and responding to scams, sometimes criminals rely on loneliness, vulnerability and social isolation. Many people are living with some form of cognitive decline, such as dementia, that may impact their ability to distinguish scams from legitimate opportunities. Others may be lonely or socially isolated so do not have anyone to turn to for a second opinion on whether an offer is genuine.

Once someone has responded to a scam, their personal details are shared and sold on to other criminals who will use this information to relentlessly target them with either scam mails, multiple phone calls, or repeat home visits to con, mislead, intimidate and bully the person into parting with their cash.

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

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# ELSENHAM COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

By Frances Lambert

☎ 07771 728332 ✉ flambert@btinternet.com

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## Uninsured drivers and the Police

In the 15 week period of 9 October 2023 to 21 January 2024, police officers seized 1,196 uninsured cars and commercial vehicles in their effort to combat uninsured drivers using roads in Essex.

Every day they carry out enforcement activities to ensure safety on our roads, not just for vehicle users, but for everyone. Police officers carry out work focussing on identifying and targeting those drivers who pose the greatest risk to other road users whilst using the county's roads.

Superintendent Phil Stinger, Head of Specialist Operations, explained: "We know that some families and businesses continue to be affected by the ongoing cost of living crisis and people may have to choose where they spend their income. But it is imperative that every driver insures their vehicle to make sure that, in the event of a collision, they have the support and coverage they need to get back on the road."

He continued: "It's against the law to drive an uninsured vehicle which is why we proactively patrol all our roads and carry out this enforcement work. If you're stopped by an officer, we'll check you're insured and if not, we will seize your vehicle and it will incur a charge to get it back. It's also important not just to have insurance, but to have the correct insurance so that it meets your requirements. There are more drivers using their vehicles for business purposes, so that needs to be covered in your policy".

In December last year, Essex Police saw a 30% rise in uninsured vehicles being seized. In addition to their vehicle being seized, uninsured motorists may also be reported for driving offences, resulting in a fine and receiving six points on their licence.

The Superintendent also confirmed that with an average of 80 cars a week during this period being seized, this means fewer victims of uninsured and hit and run drivers. The police would prefer not to have to seize vehicles because they know the impact it could have on every motorist, and potentially their livelihood.

Instead, every driver should check that they have the correct level of coverage and valid motor insurance.



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# ELSENHAM VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

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

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A perusal of the EVHS website will give you a lot of information about our village not least about the people who live there. An important part of this is the census information and I am pleased to report that the latest 1921 census is in the process of being transcribed ready to be posted on our website.

It should be noted that present day Elsenham was then comprised of parts of Henham and Stansted as well as Elsenham itself. The changes in Parish boundaries is an interesting subject in itself and more may be found on the website about how the boundaries have changed over the last century and are indeed still changing. Look under the miscellaneous tab. The census information we are compiling will cover the whole of present day Elsenham.

The official census date was 19<sup>th</sup> June 1921 but the census actually collected details of all those alive on the night of Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April 1921. At that time it was noted that there were 163 Dwellings in Elsenham housing a population of 639. It is interesting to note that many of the names appearing are still extant in the village today and I was struck by the number of widows appearing, not surprising of course just three years after the end of the Great War. Work was mainly agricultural with a smattering of nurserymen and domestic servants. A number of people were “servants” of the Great Eastern Railway Company working at Elsenham Station or elsewhere nearby. All in all this is a fascinating peep into the past and well worth your time to have a look. The transcript is now undergoing final checking and should be posted by the time you read this.

As I prepare these notes I was sorry to hear that Gordon Fulton, one of the earliest members of our society, has died. As well as being a member he served on the committee for some years and was one of the principal researchers and authors of For The Duration. This was the story of Elsenham’s War Dead, a detailed account of everyone that appears on the Village War Memorial. Our condolences go out to Ruth and the family.

Our next meeting is March 13<sup>th</sup> and as is now customary, will include our AGM when we will be presenting the annual reports and electing the officers of the society for the next 12 months. We will also be filling a long-time gap in our repertoire as Chairman Ray Franklin delves into his photo collection and presents a “Potted History of Elsenham” that takes us from circa the 12<sup>th</sup> century to the present day in forty-five (and a bit) minutes. Ray is a very entertaining speaker so this will be a good opportunity to come along and find out about the history of your village.

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

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## ELSENHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

By Moyra Jackson ☎ 647351



How beautiful does Elsenham look with spring bulbs not just in the gardens, but a lovely show of daffodils for the first time at the Playing Field? If that doesn't cheer us all up nothing will.

Quite appropriately we ended January with our Resolutions Meeting. We discussed in full the four Resolutions that had been shortlisted – topics included dentistry, stopping gambling advertising, poor housing conditions and prison sentences of women for non-violent crimes. All were worthy subjects. Our votes are added to those from the rest of Essex, and finally to National's numbers to decide upon what one (or possibly two if the vote is close) will go on to our National Annual Meeting for the final decision. We are always very proud of the campaigning side of the WI and how everyone's vote is counted. Democracy in action.

February was a busy month for us. We had Bookworms, Bowling, Ladies Who Lunch, Natter Night and Crafternoon as well as our monthly meeting. February is the month we focus on the environment, and we were delighted to host a joint meeting with the EAGLES about recycling as part of our 'Show the Love' month.

Our March meeting is on the 21<sup>st</sup> and is a return for Sharon Gould, an excellent speaker who will tell us all about 'East End to Essex' and I know a lot of our members are very interested in this talk. The competition is 'something beginning with E'.

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

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

**Elsenham WI – There's a lot going on!**

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## GARDEN HINT

By Sue Johnson

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*Cover areas of soil with black plastic or black landscape fabric to warm it up before sowing seeds and planting out.*

# **EASTER ACTIVITIES**

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# ELSENHAM FLOWER SHOW SOCIETY

✉ suewaite2003@yahoo.co.uk

✉ lynda.jolly@btinternet.com



As of January this year the Elsenham Flower Show Society (EFSS) has a new Committee. We have had our first meeting as a committee and have planned our event for this coming year.

Plant Sale	Saturday 18 May	10am – 2pm
Open Gardens	Sunday 30 June	
Flower Show	Saturday 17 August	3pm – 5pm (open to the public)

The Plant Sale will be held in the Memorial Hall and if weather is fine, outside in the Memorial Garden. If you would like to donate any plants, to our Plant Sale, that would be wonderful and gratefully accepted. If you have any small plant pots that you no longer require, our growers can always use them. We will be serving refreshments as well.

We will be contacting previous supporters of the Open Gardens, asking if they would like to show their gardens again this year. If you would like to open your garden to the village in June please contact us by email [suewaite2003@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:suewaite2003@yahoo.co.uk) or [lynda.jolly@btinternet.com](mailto:lynda.jolly@btinternet.com). It would be nice if some of our new residents to the village would show their gardens, big or small, a lush lawn or no lawn, a courtyard or a vegetable garden it would be lovely to see the different styles.

The Flower Show, as always, will be in the Memorial Hall and Marquee in the garden. You will find the list of competitions in the village magazine this month and entry forms will be included in May's edition as well as in the Post Office. So if you would like to show us your wonderful flower displays and vegetables that you have grown, your baking and handicraft skills, then please enter. There are competitions for the children to enter as well. And of course teas and cake will be available.

Please support the EFSS, **all** proceeds from the Plant Sale go to the costs of the Flower Show in August. Hopefully we will see you soon.

Best wishes

Alan, Sue, Lynda, Brian and Lynda - - your new EFSS committee members

Help us make this year a fantastic success.

**ST MARY'S CHURCH ELSENHAM**  
Office@heuchurch.co.uk

We have some new neighbours who have moved in next door to Henham Vicarage. I haven't met them, but I've seen them moving around - it's a flock of sheep.

Did you know the one animal which the Bible consistently uses to explain humans, and the way we behave, is sheep. And I think the reason we're like sheep, is because sheep follow. They follow a voice. They follow shepherds.

And I don't know if you've ever thought about it, but we all have shepherds. We all have people we follow, people who have an influence over us. It could be an online guru, a friend, a spouse, a colleague, someone in our family; or a mix of all of them. But the point is, whether we're conscious of it or not, we all listen to other voices; we all have shepherds we follow.

But the problem is: not all shepherds are worth following. In John Chapter 10, Jesus says there are two kinds of shepherds. There are some that are simply no good. When trouble comes, they run away.

He explains: if you're a sheep, the most dangerous thing you can meet is a wolf. Wolves attack sheep. They are death to sheep. And Jesus says: these other shepherds, when the wolf comes, they're not there. They've disappeared. If the worst thing that can happen to the sheep is the wolf, the worst thing that can happen to you and me is to face our mortality and death. That is our wolf.

But there's another shepherd who is

different. Jesus said: I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

The word good means true, genuine, worthy. When our greatest danger approaches, when our wolf approaches, it's as though Jesus sees it coming towards us and he steps out and says: The wolf can have me instead of you. I'll take your place.

I've not been there, but apparently, in an old churchyard in the City of London, there's a wall called the Memorial to Heroic Self-sacrifice.

On the wall are mounted dozens of tablets commemorating various ordinary people who performed acts of extraordinary sacrifice.

People like: Edmund Emery of King's Road Chelsea. Leapt from a Thames steamboat to rescue a child and was drowned 31 July 1874. Or Henry James Bristow Aged eight – at Walthamstow on December 30, 1890 – saved his little sister's life by tearing off her flaming clothes but caught fire himself and died of burns and shock.

Or Solomon Galaman aged 11, died of injuries on 6 Sept 1901 after saving his little brother from being run over in Commercial Street. The inscription reads "Mother I saved him but I could not save myself."

And in exactly the same way, the Bible says Jesus gave up his life to save ours. The good shepherd laid down his life for the sheep.

# CHURCH EVENTS IN OUR VILLAGES MARCH 2024

## Church Services

### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

**10:15** All Together All Age Service,  
Elsenham Village Hall

**18:00** Sunday@6, HUSCH\*, Henham

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March

**08:45** Prayer Book Holy Communion,  
Elsenham Church

**10:00** Morning Service, Ugley Church

**10:15** Holy Communion,  
Elsenham Village Hall

**18:00** Sunday@6, HUSCH\*, Henham

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March

**08:45** Prayer Book Morning Prayer,  
Elsenham Church

**10:00** Prayer Book Holy Communion,  
Ugley Church

**10:15** Morning Service  
Elsenham Village Hall

**18:00** Sunday@6, HUSCH\*, Henham

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March

**08:45** Prayer Book Morning Prayer,  
Elsenham Church

**10:00** Morning Service, Ugley Church

**10:15** Morning Service,  
Elsenham Village Hall

**18:00** Sunday@6, HUSCH\*, Henham

### Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March Good Friday

**12:00** Hour at the Cross, Ugley Church

**13:30** Village Good Friday, Elsenham  
Memorial Garden

### Easter Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March

**10:00** Prayer Book Holy Communion,  
Ugley Church

**10:15** Joint All Age Service,  
Elsenham Village Hall

\* HUSCH: Henham & Ugley School Hall

### Friday March 1 World Day of Prayer 2024

Elsenham Memorial Hall **14:30**

Informal Service followed  
by refreshments

## Other Regular Events

### SUNDAYS:

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

**(Y1-Y6) Starts at EVH then on to  
Old Frank's, Elsenham, 10.15am**

Sundays: 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>

**Pathfinders (Y6-Y9)**

**HUSCH\*, Henham 6.00pm - leave  
from service to meet in the Church  
Hall, Henham. Sundays: 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>,  
& 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Crammin' (Y10-Y13)**

**HUSCH\*, Henham 6.00pm followed  
by 7.00pm at OSCA, Henham  
Sundays: 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>**

### MID-WEEK AND SATURDAY:

**Start the Week with Prayer**

**Church Hall, Henham 9.30am**

Mondays: 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>

**Seekers After School Bible Club**

**(Y3-Y4) Old Frank's 3.20pm**

Mondays: 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>

**Christian Play (Y1-Y2)**

**Rowan House, Elsenham 3.15pm**

Tuesdays: 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>

**Little Fishes Pre-School Group**

**Church Hall, Henham 10.30am**

Thursday: 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>

**Little Fishes Pre-School Group**

**Elsenham Memorial Hall 10.00am**

Fridays: 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Church Lunch Club**

**Elsenham Memorial Hall 12.30pm**

Fridays: (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month):  
8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Afternoon Tea**

**OSCA, Henham 2.00pm**

Saturday: 16<sup>th</sup>

For information on all these events,  
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## **“ALL YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT RECYCLING AND OTHER RUBBISH”**

On Thursday 8 February nearly 50 people braved the rain and wind to hear Becky Tomkins, waste and recycling officer at Uttlesford District Council (UDC), give a very informative talk about all aspects of recycling in Uttlesford. Our grateful thanks to Becky and to our co-hosts, the WI, for not only attending but for also serving tea, coffee and wonderful home-made cakes.

We learned about the onward journey of our kerbside recycling: it ultimately goes to a Materials Recycling Facility in Dartford, where any general waste is removed by hand. Too much general waste, or the presence of food waste, will result in a load of recycling being rejected due to contamination. The recyclable items are mechanically separated into paper, card, glass, plastics, aluminium and cans. These are then baled and sold to different reprocessing companies to be made into new products. How amazing that a recycled aluminium drinks can can be processed and back on the shelves in only six weeks!

### **Useful to know:**

- UDC do recycle all plastic bags, including supermarket carrier bags. This is worth mentioning as not all councils can do this.
- Tetra packs can be recycled (please leave the plastic cap on).
- All bottles, plastic or glass, including wine bottles with metal lids, need to be recycled with the lids on (because small items can get lost and jam the machines). If your recycling bin is regularly overflowing you can request a second bin free of charge from UDC.

**Food waste** is sent to a company called “Biogen” in Halstead where it is anaerobically digested to make biogas and biofertiliser. The biogas provides renewable energy for heat and power. Sadly, 30% of the general waste collected in Uttlesford is food waste. This currently will go to landfill where it generates methane, which is a powerful greenhouse gas. So it is extremely important for the environment to use your food bin for food waste.

**Garden waste** is sent to Birch Airfield Composting Services where it is inspected, shredded and graded into different compost products which are sold, largely to farmers.

We meet in The Crown at 7.30pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month. All are welcome to join us and we look forward to seeing you.



**The Hair Loss Clinic**  
North Hall Road, Ugley  
07957 166436  
[www.hairlosslaserclinic.co.uk](http://www.hairlosslaserclinic.co.uk)

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

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

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

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

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



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# NEWS FROM STANSTED FIRE STATION

☎ 01376 575830    ✉ [stanstead.oc@essex-fire.gov.uk](mailto:stanstead.oc@essex-fire.gov.uk)



Hello to all our readers.

We hope everyone has been keeping safe over the start of the year. The team at the station has been busy training for and responding to emergencies. January and February have been a busy start to the year, with the adverse weather leading to an influx of weather-related calls.

The team took part in various training drills including breathing apparatus training, ladder training and road traffic collisions training. These are all areas the team continue to train in to ensure our response is quick and efficient when we are called out in an emergency.

The team at Stansted now welcomes two trainee fire-fighters (FF) into our blue light family. FF Morrison and FF Carter have now passed the selection process to start their training as trainee fire-fighters. This selection process consists of tests in fitness, maths and English, aptitude and fireground equipment carry. There is also an interview, medical assessment, and DBS (reference checks). FF Morrison and FF Carter, having completed their initial four week drill night training on station and will now attend a two week basic training course at our Service Training Centre under the eyes of service training instructors. They will then undergo a variety of assessments for six weeks, before they can join the crew operationally as trainee fire-fighters. Everyone at Stansted Fire Station wishes them the best and continues to support them throughout this initial stage of their careers.

Lastly, the station had a very special visit from Elsenham Primary School who came to the station on Thursday 1 February and the crew commented on how well behaved the children were. The children were shown all the tools and parts that make up a fire engine and there was even a chance to test out their fire-fighting skills in the drill yard by using some of our fire-fighting media.

If any other groups or schools would like to visit feel free to get in touch.



***Fire Fighters Morrison and Carter undergoing Basic Training***

Stay safe and best wishes from Stansted Fire Station.

[Stansted Fire Station | Facebook](#)





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## **Electric Vehicle Charging Points**

In conjunction with the Parish Council, Elsenham Community Association is investigating the installation of two electric vehicle charging points on Elsenham playing field car park near the Memorial Hall.

Funding applications, quite correctly, ask that we show that there is a genuine need for such a facility in the village.

If you have a view on this, please email [Elsenham@btinternet.com](mailto:Elsenham@btinternet.com) with your thoughts. Your message need not be lengthy, but lots of responses would be beneficial. Please include your name and postcode.



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## **EROWOS**

*By Margaret Shaw*

[www.e-voice.org.uk/erowos](http://www.e-voice.org.uk/erowos)    [erowos@btopenworld.com](mailto:erowos@btopenworld.com)



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## **Good Friday Village Ramble**

Please join us on our next village ramble on Good Friday 29 March 2024

This is a long standing village tradition and is a good chance to catch up with friends and acquaintances during a relaxed ramble on local footpaths. A great way to discover safe local walks and meet new people if you are new to the area.

Meet at 2.15pm at The Memorial Garden (opposite Tesco)

Everyone welcome. Bring the children and dogs (dogs on leads please). Unfortunately the paths are probably too difficult for prams or wheelchairs.

Can't wait till our next organised walk? Plenty of walks around Elsenham available on our website (address above).

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## **Your bus service – use it or lose it! *By Bus Co-ordinator Ray Franklin***

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the traffic questionnaire. The response was so great that Essex Transport have cancelled future meetings to finalise the results. In my responses I made the following observations:

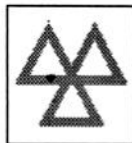
- There are still multiple builders constructing housing estates in Elsenham.
- One developer is building two bus shelters and an electronic timetable board.
- A large amount of money is being given to support the 7 & 7A bus services.

I'm confident that these items must seriously affect the findings of the questionnaire.

**Please use the bus service or it will cease to exist!**

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# NATURAL OUTLOOK

By Heather Salvidge ☞ 814153



March into Spring is one way of putting it, so long as we survive strong cold winds, icy rain, frost, warm sun and maybe a bit of snow and even Saharan dust. Towards the end of the month we have the vernal equinox, between the 20th and 21<sup>st</sup> the hour change and finally, Easter Sunday but longer daylight hours.

Some of our local fauna are now out of winter sleeps; grey squirrels busy with mending an old nest and we get traces of hedgehogs in the garden and put out some food. There are so few about now partly because of R.T.A.s but one hopes. Then there are hares which gather in local fields and males wait for females to come into season - boxing his ears if they are not quite ready,

Some trees are in flower this month, silver birches, hazels, oaks, hornbeams and yews. Silver birches have catkins and fruiting catkins which eventually fall with very small fruits. Hazels have male dangling yellow catkins and tiny red female flowers which produce the nuts. There are probably two sorts of oaks round here, one with equally lobed leaves and no stalk for the acorns but the other's leaves are slightly different, having unequal lobes and very short stalks for the acorns. Occasionally the two species hybridise. Hornbeam leaves are not so shiny as beech leaves and the nuts are smaller. Yew berries are small, hard, green and cone shaped, surrounded by a sticky red substance which birds can eat but they pass through' the little hard, poisonous green cones. Around other parts of the village and coming into flower are blackthorns with white flowers and later their leaves and hawthorns with green leaves followed by their white flowers.

As there are these in flower, insects are about as there is nectar and some pollen to feed on: there are the female white and buff tailed bumble bees. There is also the flower bee now about feeding and making its nests in soil – and soft mortar! Then the large bee flies, an insect which hovers to steady itself to use its long proboscis to reach for nectar. Ladybirds emerge from their hiding places, sometimes just one or two and at others en masse as they come out of cabbages – or sheds

Early flowers are the all blue germander speedwell not very tall and branched stalks, similar is the common field speedwell, which is also blue but has one white petal. In our garden the first of the snakes' head fritillary, an unusual plant in that the flowering heads - except for the white ones - have pink and pale mauve checked petals. Ours grow in our orchard but you can buy them 'at suitable outlets'. The yellow corydalis has pushed its way up the cracks in the concrete and elsewhere, the lesser celandines are in the woods, in people's gardens and edging pavements and paths. There was a clump of the greater celandine – a taller plant with very different leaves, looks a bit like a distant cousin to a buttercup – in the start of the path round The Crown- will it be there this year? Primroses have started - hardly any in Alsa Wood which is just as well as there will be the first oxlips there and we don't want them to hybridise and the first cowslips usually show on the verge by Foxton's Farm by the double bend in Ugley Green.

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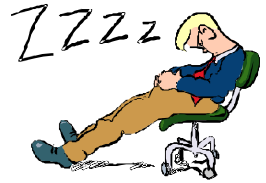
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**Craig Pike**





## What was and what is

When the, "Crown," Public House closed I was asked about what retail outlets, pubs and clubs have been within Elsenham. And what was the present situation – so here goes.....

The "Crown," public house has seen many proprietors over the years. It has returned, "phoenix-like", many times. It has risen again, unlike the "Robin Hood" which is now a private residence. Next to the Crown, stood Buttles High Class, Quality Provisions and Groceries. This is now also a private residence, so no rebirth possible.

Coming up the High Street stood the smithy and almost opposite the "old " village hall. This was built by Sir Walter Gilbey in 1894, to be replaced by the joint-usage Hall in 1983. Opposite a little farther down the High Street you now see "Barkers Row," where once you would find "Barkers Garage." Next to "Barkers" we now find the church office. This has been a small shop and had many owners. A little further down "The Old Post Office" was just to the rear of the pump. Opposite stood The Working Mens' Club and the chapel.

Just before Ambrose Corner on the site of "Padgett Court," was "Robinson" Builders. In "Ambrose Corner," long-standing residents have seen, a grocery shop, a mini supermarket, a butcher's shop, a greengrocer, a take away Chinese and an Indian restaurant, a fish and chip shop, ladies' hair dressers and a post office.

Go down "Station Road," and see the sites of three doctor's surgeries and that is not counting its present location.

The house which once stood on "Orchard Crescent," sold apples and fruit from its extensive orchards. A little father down, "Harling Builders."

The railway "Station Shop," once sold freshly baked bread and groceries and sold and delivered newspapers.

On the corner of "New Road" and "Station Road" there was Elsenham's other garage.

In part two .... Robin Hood Road & Stansted Road

Ray  
Franklin

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## U3A STANSTED

John Hudson

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---

Getting the year off to a great start, our French and Poetry groups have enjoyed interesting sessions, the Walkers have been wandering away to distant villages and the Knitting and Crochet group has livened up our village shop windows.

The Poetry for Pleasure group has studied poets including black activist Maya Angelou (who read her wonderful poem "On the Pulse of a Morning" at President Clinton's inauguration), John Keats, who succumbed to tuberculosis at only twenty six years of age, but produced many poems about sadness and death and Sir John Betjeman who, by contrast, enjoyed a long, fulfilling career. The group meets on the first Thursday of the month and always welcomes new members.

One of the French groups is currently studying "Le Petit Nicolas," the adventures of a young boy. They have watched videos and online lessons with French teachers to improve listening and speaking skills, as well as enjoying quizzes and games, in French of course! If you fancy learning or improving your French in a relaxed and fun atmosphere, you will be very welcome to join in.

In recent months, the Walkers have targeted Albury, Manuden and a historical walk around Saffron Walden with coffee at The Cross Keys. A New Year lunch was enjoyed at The Yew Tree in Manuden, with a brief walk around the village. Walks continue this year on the first Thursday of each month, usually ending up at Touchpoint, a tea shop, or a pub.

At the General Meeting, on Thursday 21 March at 2pm in St John's Church Hall, Bobbie Darbyshire explains, in a lighthearted way, how the complex world of character, location, plot and subplot arrives in a writer's mind.

---

## STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

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



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The recent club quiz was attended by 178 people and a record profit was recorded – a great start to the year.

Junior indoor nets began in December and senior nets have just started on a Sunday morning. We will be running 'All Stars' cricket for five to eight year olds at our Stansted House ground on Friday evenings starting at 5.30pm.

Arrangements for our '50 years of cricket at Stansted House' continue. On June 30 a day of cricket is being organised together with a hog roast which will be enjoyed by members, former members, and club guests.

As ever if you have an interest in cricket as player, volunteer, or spectator please get in touch as above.

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# THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

By Tricia Moxey, Trustee

🌐 [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk)



We are fortunate today that we have a benefit system to help vulnerable people. In the past, the less fortunate relied on parish relief or the generosity of the better-off. Some wealthy benefactors left money for the provision of almshouses. You can see an article on almshouses on the Hundred Parishes website.

Other philanthropists helped the poor by giving money in a variety of ways. Some churches record the benevolence of these donors on large “benefactor” boards. For example, in St. Peters, Ugley, we are told on one board that Robert Bucke, a draper, in his will of 1620, gave three suits of clothes to three poor men and three suits with hats to three poor women, to be given every third year “for ever”.

Just a few miles away in Manuden parish church, a board describes three benefactors, one of whom is the same Robert Bucke. He gives the same number of suits to the poor of Manuden, here with additional hats, shoes and stockings.

In Little Hadham, the church of St. Cecilia has a board recording that Miss Ann Scott, in her 1865 will, left dividends to the rector and church wardens to distribute bread on Shrove Sunday each year “at their discretion” to the poor of the parish.

Hatfield Broad Oak’s Church of St. Mary the Virgin has a brass plaque describing the generosity of John Gobert. He left £600 in his will of 1623 for the purchase of land, the proceeds from which were to be distributed in a variety of ways including £4 per annum to the town of Hatfield Broad Oak. His heir, Sir John Barrington, subsequently bought the manor of Keeres in Aythorpe Roothing to comply with the will.

Please look out for more proclamations of generosity.



**St. Peters, Ugley**



**Manuden**



**Little Hadham**



**Hatfield Broad Oak**

*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](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk).*



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# ELSENHAM BOWLS AND SOCIAL CLUB

*By Trevor Hackett*

☎ 07445 437437



In our efforts to increase the social activities of the Club, we hope you didn't miss the Line Dance evening on February 10 or the Whist Drive on February 24.

Looking ahead to future events, on March 16 we have another Quiz Night to follow our successful one in January. Tables of eight persons/brains. Light snack provided at the halfway point. Cost £6 per person. Reserve your table by contacting me now ☎ 07445 437437.

Then on March 30 we have an excellent guitarist and former Beatles Tribute act member Paul Sharp covering music from the Beatles and the 60s. Tickets on sale at the bar now and from me, ☎ 07445 437437, at just £6 each. It will be another successful night if the Elvis night is anything to go by. Tickets are limited to just 70 people.

We continue our increasingly popular Saturday night Bingo session then monthly from April to September. The bingo bonus is now up to £100 so come along and get your chance to win.

The next music night will be a Neil Diamond evening on May 25. Once again, the tickets will be just £6 each including nibbles.

The Crib league continues on Tuesday evenings, and we have hosted the Crib Singles competition and a Crib Drive. Our darts players continue to enjoy their games on Wednesday evenings.

Short Mat bowling is on a Monday afternoon in the club house starting at 2 pm. All members are welcome to attend, and we can lend you bowls if you haven't any of your own.

The Calendar for March is:

Bingo 9 & 23 - eyes down at 7.30 pm.

March 16 - Quiz Night 7.30 for 8 pm.

March 30 - Paul Sharp plays the Beatles 7.30 for 8 pm.

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

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

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## ELSENHAM TENNIS CLUB

By Petra Studholme ☎814667



**Elsenham Tennis Club** offers individual, couple, family, senior and non-playing membership packages. We have two all-weather court and floodlights so you can play after work. We are situated right in the heart of the village, on the playing field. You will get your own key to access the courts, can book online at your convenience and participate in our club events such as club nights and weekend or morning play sessions.

If you want to find out more about Elsenham Tennis Club go to our website or find us on Facebook.

### **Essex Small Club League**

We started the season off well with good wins against Clavering and Much Hadham at home with some great tennis being played in tough conditions. We have unfortunately in February lost our next two matches against Much Hadham and Stebbing, with some tight long games but not being able to hold out for a draw or take the win. We are hoping to be able to get more wins later in the month for our next two matches.

### **Coaching – individual and group sessions**

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

[stevesmith865@hotmail.com](mailto:stevesmith865@hotmail.com) or call/text 07790 561 817.

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

### **Rackets and balls**

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

### **Hire our courts – open to non-members.**

Hire our courts to play with friends and family - £3 per adult, and 50p for under 18s. You can email us or message on Facebook for availability, but please, if possible, give us 24hrs notice as we need to arrange to open the courts for you.

### **Tennis Club Weekly Activities**

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

Tuesday evening – 7.30pm club night

Wednesday morning – 10am causal play

Thursday evening – 6.30pm cardio tennis

(non members welcome)

Thursday evening – 7.30pm team  
practice sessions

Friday morning – 10am casual play

Sunday afternoon – 2pm casual play



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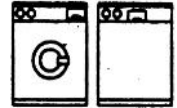
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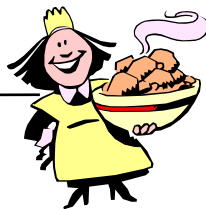
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## COOKERY CORNER

By Sue Johnson 🍴 812704



A really quick, easy and delicious way with pork fillet.

### GINGER AND SOY STICKY PORK FILLET (serves 4)

1lb 6oz (600g) pork fillet

#### **Marinade:**

1½ inches (4cm) fresh root ginger, peeled and grated

2 garlic cloves, crushed

4 tablespoons soy sauce

2 tablespoons sweet chilli sauce

3 tablespoons honey

#### **Garnish:**

4 spring onions, finely shredded into long, thin strips

1 red chilli, deseeded and thinly sliced

2 tablespoons chopped coriander (optional)

To make the marinade, put all the ingredients into a bowl and mix well. Put the pork fillet in the marinade, season well and turn to coat until all the meat is covered. Leave to marinate in the fridge a few hours.

Heat the oven to 220°C/200°C fan/gas 7. Line a small roasting tin with non-stick baking paper. Take the fillet out of the marinade and lay it in the roasting tin.

Roast in the oven for 30 minutes, until golden brown and cooked through. Remove from oven and allow to rest for five minutes before carving.

Put the reserved marinade in a small saucepan over a medium heat. Bring to a simmer, stirring occasionally.

Carve the pork into slices and arrange on a warmed serving plate. Pour the hot marinade over the top and scatter with the spring onions, chilli and coriander (if using).

**CHEF'S RECOMMENDATIONS:** The tenderloin can be marinated up to 8 hours before cooking. Great served with rice noodles and tender stemmed broccoli. Make sure the marinade is heated up well before pouring over the cooked pork.



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**Scouts**  
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## VIOLETA by Isabel Allende

Reviewed by Marion Giles for Elsenham Book Group



*'One extraordinary woman. One hundred years of history. One unforgettable story.'*

*Violeta comes into the world on a stormy day in 1920, the first daughter in a family of five boisterous sons. From the start, her life is marked by extraordinary events. The ripples of the Great War are still being felt, even as the Spanish flu arrives on the shores of her South American homeland almost at the moment of her birth. Told in the form of a letter to someone Violeta loves above all others, this is the story of a hundred-year life – of devastating heartbreak and passionate affairs, poverty and wealth, terrible loss and immense joy. Bearing witness to a century of history, it is a life shaped by the fight for women's rights, the rise and fall of tyrants and, ultimately, not one but two pandemics.*

*Through the eyes of a woman whose unforgettable passion, determination and sense of humour will carry her through a lifetime of upheaval, Isabel Allende once more brings us an epic that is both fiercely inspiring and deeply emotional. ...' So says the blurb on the back of the book.*

- **Covering two pandemics, passionate affairs, and poverty, *Violeta* is a must for historical fiction lovers — Country & Townhouse**

This was the choice of the book group last month. It was generally well-liked and sparked some lively debate.

It is a complex tale candidly told in the form of a letter, from Violeta to Camilo. We don't find out who Camilo is until the last third of the book so no plot spoilers. Some of us found this to be a little matter of fact and the first person narrative loses a little tension as a memoir rather than an active drama.

Violeta is born into a wealthy family living in a beautiful home. Her father is a business man with some business dealings that are not strictly legal—these transactions are kept in the 'other book'. Following bad investments and strife in their country, facing financial ruin, he commits suicide. Violeta's brothers disperse apart from one. Violeta, her brother, mother, two aunts and a trusted servant are taken in by the family of the governess's lover. They settle into farm life, which is very different to their previous life. They adapt and gradually, people come and go in Violeta's life. She marries Fabian, but embarks on a long and sometimes toxic relationship with Julian. They have two children but don't stay living together. Julian is abusive and his secret work for the government and connections to the mafia cause problems for Violeta and her son and daughter. Despite tragedy and loss, Violeta seems to survive and is fortunate to be supported by some strong women throughout her life and lucky to find love in her later years with Roy and then Harald.

# 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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

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

## Advertising

The costs are as follows:

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

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

## To place an advertisement:

For any queries, contact Nathalie. Please send your advert as Word or Publisher via email to **elsenhamsnews@hotmail.co.uk**

**Advertising Editor: TBA**

## Business Advertising

Cheques should be made payable to "**Elsenhams Community Association**".

**Editorial Team:**

**Gary Williams  
Emma Bailey  
Marion Giles  
Patricia Davis  
Anne White  
Nyaradzo Chabata  
Angie Wenlock  
David Newland**

**Previous issues of Elsenham News are available on the ECA Website**

**www.ElsenhamsCommunityAssociation.org.uk**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Elsenham Tennis Club Quiz 14 April 7.30pm Bowls and Social Club

Elsenham Flower Show Society 18 May 10am - 2pm Memorial Hall

Neil Diamond Tribute 25 May 7.30pm Bowls and Social Club

Village Fete 22 June Playing Field

## VILLAGE CONTACTS

Airport Roadside Parking		0800 731 2385
Beavers	1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com	
Bowls Club	Therese Clear	816535 or 07759 158859
Brownies	elsenhambrownies@gmail.com	
Church Office (Old Frank's, High St, Elsenham)	Anna Hicks	814285
County Councillor (Stansted)	Ray Gooding	813103
Cricket Club	David Brown	831011
Cub Scouts	1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com	
ECA (Chairman)	Allan Hathaway	813385
ECA (Secretary)	Moyra Jackson	647351
ECA Website	www.ElsenhamCommunityAssociation.org.uk	
Elsenham Eagles	elsenham.action@btinternet.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 Fete	ElsenhamSummerFete@gmail.com	
Elsenham Rights of Way website	www.e-voice.org.uk/erowos/	
Friends of Elsenham School (FOES)	Louise Judd	foespta@hotmail.com
Guides elsenhamguides@gmail.com	Gemma Schafer	07792 572423
Henham & District Garden Society	Moyra Jackson	647351
History Society	Mike Rea	evhs12@hotmail.co.uk 813634
Member of Parliament	Kemi Badenoch	0207 219 5214
Memorial Hall Bookings	Cheryl Rae	817834
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator	Frances Lambert	07771 728332
	franceslambertnhw@btinternet.com	
Parish Clerk - Louise Johnson	louise.epc@gmail.com	07456 791727
Elsenham Parish Council Website	www.elsenham-pc.gov.uk	
Police		101
Post Office		812175
Rainbows	elsenhamrainbows@gmail.com	
Scouts	1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com	
St Mary's Fabric Fund	Elizabeth Barker	813543
Tennis Club	Petra Studholme	814667
Tots & Toddlers	Dawn Temple	07944 841358
Uttlesford District Councillors	Petrina Lees	816675
(for Elsenham & Henham)	Bianca Donald	07941 880279
Village Hall Bookings	elsenhamvillagehall@gmail.com	
Womens Institute Secretary	Gill Hathaway	813385
Youth Football Club (Chairman)	Ricky Lambourne	info@elsenhamyfc.co.uk

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



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