

Elsenham News



STAY AT HOME

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May 2020

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Please note that following government advice regarding Covid-19, all regular activities that would normally take place in the Memorial Hall, playing field or the Village Hall have been cancelled for May and probably June too
We'll let you know if it changes.

The following specific events have been cancelled:

- May 16 Annual Plant Sale (see pages 8 and 9)
- June 6 Village Fete

The following groups or activities are suspended until further notice:

Beavers
Brownies
Community Choir
Cubs
Football
Guides
Health Walk
Kick Boxing
Little Fishes
Life Drawing
Line Dance
Nordic Walking
Rainbows
Shape to the beat
Slimming World
Tots & Toddlers

Yoga
Zumba

General cancellations include:

All Bowls & Social Club events
All church services and special events
Church Lunch Club
Elsenham & Stansted Hall Cricket Club training & fixtures
Mobile library visits
Tots and Toddlers
U3A events
Village Café, tea, coffee and lunch
WI events

Parish Council meetings are being held by Zoom. The next meeting is on 4 May. Contact Louise Johnson for information by email on [✉ louise.epc@gmail.com](mailto:louise.epc@gmail.com)

Daisy May's Farm, the Crown and Golf Word are closed

THE NEWS REPORT

From The Editors



Coping with COVID-19

We hope everyone is keeping well and staying safe.

Don't forget the Elsenham Good Neighbours Network which aims to help those who are self-isolating or working on the front line. The network is working well, volunteers are shopping and cooking for others, picking up prescriptions and generally keeping in touch. Thank you to everyone involved. See p5 for how to ask for help, or how to volunteer.

PDF magazine

This month and next we are producing the magazine in PDF format only. It will be available via the Henham & Elsenham Facebook group and the Elsenham Community Association website. We will also email it to anyone who requests it from us (✉ elsenhamnews@hotmail.co.uk). This is not ideal but it reduces the amount of contact and therefore reduces the risk while still providing some updates and information.

Advertising

We are still running adverts from our regular advertisers to keep them visible to the local community; where you can, now or in the future, please support local businesses, many of whom are hard hit by the crisis.

Plant sale

The annual plant sale can't take place as an event this year but the plants will still be available for sale, see p8 and p9 for the plants that will be available and how to buy some.

If you have anything you would like to contribute – letters, articles, photos – please get in touch, elsenhamnews@hotmail.co.uk, it would be great to hear from you.

Stay well
The Editors

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Elsenham Good Neighbours Network

If you are self-isolating or working on the front line, we are happy to help and try to ease your isolation



Each area of Elsenham now has an EGNN team of lovely volunteers who will be happy to assist.

✉ elsenhambtinternet.com (subject EGNN)
or contact Cllr Petrina Lees on ☎ 07713 074656
or Allan Hathaway on ☎ 07811 386027
to be put in contact with your local team.

Due to the contagious nature of the virus, we cannot pop in for a chat, and all deliveries/collections can only be left on the doorstep.



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COVID-19 Changes to our advice service



citizens
advice

To protect the health and wellbeing of our clients, volunteers and staff, we will be restricting our advice service to telephone support from 18 March until further notice. Call us on **01799 618840** or email bureau@uttlesfordcab.cabnet.org.uk and leave a message clearly stating your name, date of birth, postcode, email address and telephone number. If you are only available on certain days or times please tell us.

We plan to check our phones every working day and will come back to you as soon as we can, but please bear with us as, with limited resources, we may not be able to contact you as quickly as we would like to.

- For online advice - including advice relating to COVID-19 - please go to www.citizensadvice.org.uk
- For urgent matters relating to housing, speak to **Uttlesford District Council** on **01799 510510**.
- If you are worried about debt - speak to your creditors and tell them that you are seeking advice.
- For urgent court matters call or email the Court.
- For urgent advice on employment issues, ACAS can help, www.acas.org.uk or call 0800 123 1100.

Visit www.uttlesfordfrontline.org.uk for information about local support, to self-refer to local health and wellbeing services or to **download factsheets** giving details of:

- **Local support for anyone housebound or self-isolating**
- **Financial, employment & consumer issues relating to COVID-19**

If you don't have internet access or know someone that can print this information for you, call us and we can post you a copy.

We will be recording any information you provide in our client management system. For details on how we use your data, please see our privacy policy on www.uttlesfordcab.org.uk or speak to one of our volunteers when they call back.



ANNUAL PLANT SALE

As mentioned last month, our Plant Sale scheduled for Saturday 16 May will now be via e-mail, over the telephone or via Facebook this year.

Once we receive a message from you, we will respond to discuss your plant requirements. The sale will start as soon as the magazine is delivered, though some outdoor plants may not be ready and should not be put out until nearer the middle of the month, especially if frosts are forecast.

Heather Salvidge, who normally has a couple of tables at our Plant Sale, will be putting her plants out for sale on the verge outside her house, Four Gables, New Road, on 16 May if you are passing by as part of your daily exercise routine.

UPDATE ON OPEN GARDENS and FLOWER SHOW

Given the circumstances, we are regretfully having to postpone our Open Gardens event in June, but will reschedule it for 2021. Something to look forward to next year.

We are still keeping all our fingers crossed that the Flower Show can go ahead on 22 August.

We hope you agree that we are doing our very best, under difficult circumstances!

* * * * *

Plants will be priced at 50p each (unless otherwise stated) and payment by arrangement. Here is a list of plants available:

VEGETABLES

- Broad Beans
- Cabbages
- Climbing Beans
- Dwarf Beans
- Runner Beans – White Emergo, Scarlet Emperor, Enorma
- Courgettes (£1 per plant)
- Hot Chillis
- Sweet Peppers
- Peppers California Wonder
- Alicante Tomatoes
- Minibel Tomatoes
- Red Cherry Tomatoes



SUMMER BEDDING PLANTS

Begonias
Calendula
Cosmos
Dahlia Dwarf Double Mixed
Dahlia Bishop's Children
Everlastings
Foxgloves
French Marigolds
Gazania Splendens Mixed
Geraniums
Marigolds
Penstemon
Petunias
Salvias
Sunflowers Sunburst Mixed
Zinnia Giant Double
Larger Hardy Plants
Daphne - fragrant very early spring shrub (£1)
Hostas – various (£1/£2.00 depending on size)



HERBS

Parsley
Chives



HOUSEPLANTS

Peacelilies
Small succulents (various)
Money Plants
Bromeliads

OTHER

Rhubarb Bundle four sticks - picked fresh to order - £1

GARDEN HINT *By Sue Johnson*

Divide congested groups of daffodils if flowering has declined.





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DEVELOPMENT DEVELOPMENTS

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



These are strange days indeed, and most of my piece last month was out of date before its remote publication. The appeals I mentioned have both been postponed while the Planning Inspectorate tries to work out how to hold hearings in public when the public have to stay two metres apart from each other. The Inspectorate has not lacked for advice. Fairfield, for instance, first wanted to keep attendance at the Inquiry into their application to build 350 homes between Elsenham and Henham at a minimum and for the proceedings to be webcast. Later they became very cross with the Inspectorate for postponing and for not providing an alternative date, and with Uttlesford District Council (UDC) for not finding an alternative venue. But their bluster has not helped them much; at the time of writing, the Appeal remains postponed, with no date or venue fixed.

Gladman Developments Ltd have also been free with their advice, which they offer to UDC in a condescending tone from their position as a 'frequent user of the planning system up and down the country'. They can see lots of advantages in Local Authorities passing as many planning applications as possible, and they suggest, for instance, that the Head of Planning should make decisions after discussions with the Chair of the Planning Committee, and perhaps a member or two. They see no need for boring old Committee meetings which go on till way after tea-time, and where the public get a chance to have their say and the members decide. There is very little chance of UDC being influenced by this opportunistic attempt to circumvent the democratic process dressed up as a disinterested concern for the efficient working of the Council.

Meetings of Uttlesford's Planning Committee have been postponed while UDC works out how to hold meetings remotely, but the various planning functions have not ceased. Most small applications are decided by planning officers, who are now working from home, and are thus even more elusive than usual.

Attempts to determine whether any progress has been made in drawing up a Section 106 agreement with Bovis Homes have foundered hopelessly. Following the approval in November 2019 of their application for 130 homes to the west of Hall Road, it was expected that such an agreement would include a parcel of land for nursery provision adjacent to the school and a substantial contribution to a new community hall on the patch of rough land left for the purpose at the playing field edge of the David Wilson Homes development. But all is silence.

As for the Local Plan, it seems to have disappeared without trace. It is not in its former place on UDC's website, and you have to search around in order to find any evidence that such a thing ever existed. It's an ill wind, etc. - appeals might be held up for the time being, but developers can continue to bang in applications while there is no Local Plan, and UDC is bound to do its best to deal with them.



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ELSENHAM VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

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

🌐 www.elsenham-history.co.uk



Some time ago we put together a fun quiz for the Village Fete so I thought I would resurrect it to help you pass at least some of the time in our enforced isolation. Have a go and see how much you know about the village. All the answers can be found on our website www.elsenham-history.co.uk which, in any case, is a fount of knowledge and is well worth a look. Answers will be given next month.

The Quiz

1. Do you know how old the Church is?
2. Which Saint is it dedicated to?
3. Elsenham C of E Primary school has grown over the years, but in which year did it open on its present site?
4. Name the famous racehorse buried in Elsenham
5. Who owned this racehorse?
6. Although it is no longer in Elsenham, there was a jam factory here. What was the reason for it being here?
7. What was the proud boast on its label?
8. Elsenham held a Mini Marathon. Guess the year.
9. Which year did the railway come to Elsenham?
10. At one time there was a branch line from Elsenham to Thaxted. What was its affectionate nickname?
11. Originally there were two pubs in the village. Name them.
12. How did the village mark the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the railway to Elsenham?
13. When did Mrs Reid become Head Teacher at the primary school?
14. What was the name of the garage and petrol station formerly in the High Street?
15. Before Glebe End was built, what was the land used for?

Our next meeting is due to be held on Wednesday 10 June 2020. Our speaker is Anthea Hawden from Raking Light who will be talking about Church Graffiti taking examples from our St Mary's as well as surrounding churches. Whether this meeting will go ahead is unclear at the moment so to whet your appetite the Raking Light website may be found at 🌐 <https://rakinglight.co.uk/uk/> and a more detailed look at St Mary's is at 🌐 <https://rakinglight.co.uk/uk/st-mary-the-virgin-elsenham-essenx/> .

Whenever our next meeting is held, we look forward to welcoming you all. In the meantime stay well and keep safe.

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NATURAL OUTLOOK THROUGH A WINDOW

By Heather Salvidge ☎ 814153



I am assuming that at least some restrictions are still in place so if you don't have a garden or you have to stay in, what is there to look at?

Birds for a start and birdwatching can be very diverting. If you don't know many birds and don't have a bird book, either use the internet or make some notes and ask a friend who knows a bit more.

Once you become familiar with house sparrows, blue tits and great tits, robins, dunnocks, chaffinches, greenfinches and goldfinches, male and female blackbirds, wood pigeons and collared doves, start watching them more closely and soon you'll be able to tell what a robin looks like when it has its back to you.

As it is the middle of the breeding season there is a wide variety of activity; birds collecting nesting material – dried grasses, a bit of feather, small twigs and scraps of plastic, all good stuff. Then there can be vicious fights over territory boundaries between males of the same species, sometimes leading to death. I recall one year when having been listening to a territorial sing-off between two wrens, I found one dead half an hour later.

It can be very amusing just to watch bird ablutions, whether its mixed bathing between, say, sparrows and blue tits or a starling having a luxurious splash session in the dish of clean water that you have just put out and using up half of it in the process.

If you open a window at night then you may be awakened by the dawn chorus like the time one May when a blackbird sang right outside my window and woke me for several mornings at about 4:30am! If there are 'no bird' times this could be because of passing pussycats, human activity, the sparrowhawk has just flashed through or look up to see if there's a buzzard or red kite hanging around.

The usual insects are about, bumble and honey bees and bluebottles, and some not so familiar. It seems to have been a good year for the large bee-fly. This is a fly, about the size of a thumbnail but disguised to look more like a furry, golden brown bee with a long, slender proboscis. It uses this to get at nectar, hovering as it does so.

Another seasonal insect is the St Mark's fly, a heavy, black fly with long, dangly legs. It usually flies from late April and in May but could have been about sooner as many things have been early this year including the first shoots of common spotted orchids which showed themselves a good 2½ weeks early in both the Aubrey Buxton reserve and our back garden.



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ELSENHAM





First of all, I really hope that you all are managing to keep well. By the time you read this I am hopeful that we will be starting to see our path out of this horrible situation with Covid-19 and the future will be looking a little more predictable than it is at the time of writing. As you can imagine our plans for Fabric Fund activities are very much on hold at the moment until we know more about the plans to exit the lockdown. As such there is nothing I can say, other than stay safe, follow the Government guidelines and watch this space!

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Funerals:

- A service of thanksgiving on 24 March at Elsenham Church, followed by a burial in the churchyard, Pamela Kathleen Smith aged 92 years, of Rochelle Close, Thaxted.
- A service of thanksgiving on Thursday 23 April, followed by a cremation at Cam Valley Crematorium, Great Chesterford (attendance available via webcast), Joan Elizabeth Smith aged 91 years, of Mountfitchet House, Stansted.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Elsenham's piano tutor, Evelyn Chong, on the birth of her new baby on 1 April.



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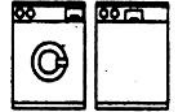
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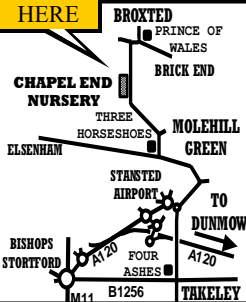
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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

By Frances Lambert ✉franceslambertnhw@btinternet.com



The theft of tools is not only 'theft of those tools'; it is also the damage the thief causes in getting to them. This can prevent you from carrying out an intended task(s), and to a trader can be a loss to your livelihood.

Recent Direct Line Insurance statistics on tool thefts state:

- 83 million stolen England and Wales since 2017 mainly from tradesmen. Only 3% recovered
- 217,000 tools...28% from vehicles....20% from private residences...10% from work sites and businesses.

Invariably tools are kept in vehicles, sheds, garages and other outbuildings, all with a level of apparent vulnerability that a thief will seek to exploit. There are similarities in security advice for sheds, outbuildings and vans:

1. Is there a more secure location with greater protection where your tools can safely be stored?
2. Think about where your sheds, outbuildings and vans are positioned, try to ensure these can be seen and are well lit.
3. Shed windows, as with the rear windows of a van, need to be treated so the contents cannot be seen through. Also, fit a weld mesh grill over the inside to deter access.
4. Consider further security inside your shed such as strong boxes or ground anchors to chain the item down.
5. Consider an alarm, there are those out there that notify you of an intrusion on your smart device and allow you to view the cause of the activation.
6. Property marking and asset recording will make your tools harder for the criminal to dispose of and so less desirable. Methods could be visibly marking i.e. engraving, die stamping, painting an awful colour, indelible ink or paint marker, a forensic marker with labelling to show that it is marked or asset recording of the serial number and description on a secure accreditation body approved database.

The more you can do to deter a burglar or thief the safer your tools will be. Don't make it easy for them - your tools are your living so keep them safe.

To get regular police updates on the crimes in our area please contact me to go on our Neighbourhood Watch emailing list.

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ELSENHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

By Moyra Jackson ☎ 647351



Well, these really are strange times we are living in. I have very little to report – no last month's meeting, no meeting this month to tell you about. What I can do is tell you what Elsenham WI is finding to do during lockdown.

First and foremost, the committee is keeping in touch with all our members. Being someone who is not always comfortable chatting on the phone (I much prefer to text) I am finding it's good to talk! Keeping in touch with one another certainly helps with feelings of isolation and the stress and anxiety that naturally accompany situations that are alien to our normal lifestyles.

We also had the first virtual Committee Meeting – great fun and so good to 'see' everyone. Apart from us all talking at once it worked really well. Only complaint – no cake!

Many of our members are suddenly finding they have lots of time on their hands and are turning to unfinished craft projects that have been on the go for some time (years in some cases). Knitting, crochet, sewing, painting – it's all going on. There are some lovely craft initiatives going on too – hearts for NHS staff, making masks and knitting scrub bears.

If you would like to learn a new craft there are many virtual workshops available and if the laughter coming from our kitchen was anything to go by, they are tremendous fun. Lynsey, our youngest member (and my daughter), learned how to make an Easter wreath online and loved it.

Our meetings are postponed until we are told that it is safe to resume. Until then we will continue to help in the village wherever we can. We will keep in touch any way we can and we will continue to support one another through difficult times, coming out the other side stronger and more appreciative of the simple things in life.



Best wishes from all at Elsenham WI.

Stay home, stay safe and protect our NHS.

Details of our programme, events and activities can be found on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram – search for Elsenham WI.

Elsenham WI – There's a lot going on!



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Hope in this time of crisis

Last week another road bridge collapsed in Italy. Thankfully, due to the present lockdown, only two vehicles were crossing the usually busy bridge and there were no fatalities.



From BBC website

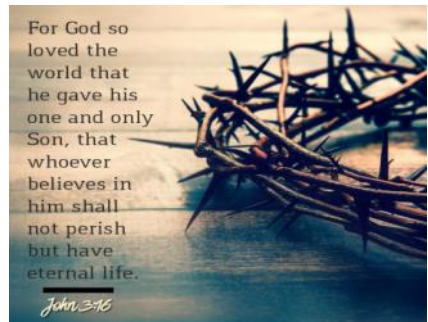
In many ways, the present time feels as precarious as that bridge. All the things we depend upon and trust seem less certain now. Perhaps we gain security from our job, money or status? Or maybe we feel our family and friends are the most important things in our lives? Or maybe we place great store by our health, fitness, and food? Whatever it may be, the lockdown has shown all of us to be fragile, and the things we thought were certain and trustworthy are actually no more robust than that rusting bridge in Italy. Where is our hope? What or who can we trust?

Last weekend was Easter when we remembered the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus the only Son of God. Jesus willingly laid down his life to rescue people like us from an eternity without God. He died in our place to offer us a certain future of eternal life with God the Father. Why would he do

this? The answer is clear - because he loves us, he loves you.

The Bible says this *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that WHOEVER believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.”* John 3:16

And to prove it, Jesus rose from the dead. We **can** trust Jesus. He keeps his promises. **All** of them.



To find out more, why not access the Christianity Explored videos available via our website:

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What do Christians believe? Who is Jesus Christ? Did he really exist? Is he really God? If he did exist and he is God, what did he say while he was here on earth? Does he really tell us what the point of life is?

We have only one life – what is it all about?



Or if you would like to know more please contact the church office, office@heuchurch.co.uk

By Sandie Turner, a church member and on Henham PCC

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HATFIELD FOREST

By Helen Hooker & Elizabeth Reeve

870678



We live in uncertain times, with the response to the Covid-19 virus bringing changes to our lives on an almost daily basis. We are writing this during the early weeks of the lockdown period, so we felt it was a good opportunity to talk about Hatfield Forest's history while it is closed to visitors.

The term forest is generally interpreted today as a place with lots of trees, but in medieval times the word referred to an area where deer were kept for hunting. Genetic testing has revealed the fallow deer in the Forest today are descendants of those who roamed nine hundred years ago, during the reign of King Henry I.

Within Hatfield Forest's 1000 plus acres there is no shortage of trees. The forest is internationally renowned for its ancient trees and some are over 500 years old. They provide a connection to the wildwoods covering the United Kingdom after the last Ice Age. Hatfield Forest, however, is not just about the trees. The land is split almost equally between wood pasture and coppices. Wood pasture was used in medieval times for grazing livestock - a practice we continue today, with our Red Poll cattle and rare breed sheep.

There is evidence of settlements within the forest boundaries dating back as far as the Iron Age. The Portingbury Hills area, to the north-west of the site, is littered with low mounds and ditches, visible remains of such a settlement and probably associated with early woodland clearances and grazing of livestock.



For nearly 200 years, from 1729 to 1923, Hatfield Forest and the adjacent estate at Hallingbury Place were owned by the Houblon family. The lake, which for so many of our visitors is the heart of the forest, is a man-made alteration to a much smaller lake. It was constructed by the Houblon family and extended under plans by Lancelot "Capability" Brown, the renowned English landscape architect. Recently the National Trust team have been working to restore this 18th century landscape to its former glory – something our visitors will be able to enjoy when the forest reopens.

At the time of writing we are currently closed in order to avoid the spread of Covid-19. We hope to be open again when government guidelines allow, but in the meantime please do not make any non-essential journeys. When restrictions have been lifted and Hatfield Forest is open once again you will of course be very welcome to come and enjoy this beautiful piece of our history.

For more information about Hatfield Forest and the National Trust's accessibility during this period, please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfield-forest



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Many of us are familiar with pillboxes: the concrete buildings dotted around the countryside, often overgrown and merged with the landscape. Contrary to popular belief, their origins go back to before the Second World War.

The purpose of the pillbox was to protect a gunner while offering him a line of vision. The concept was developed in the First World War and first used in 1917. Early constructions were of a circular shape, hence the name 'pillbox'. In the Second World War, they were first used by the British Expeditionary Force in Flanders.



The last pillboxes were built almost 80 years ago to resist a possible invasion of this country. Thousands were installed in 1940-41, many in coastal locations or in defensive lines across the South and East of England. Others were built to form a box around London.

Pillboxes varied from the one-man Tett Turret to big emplacements for two pounder anti-tank guns, the most common shape being hexagonal. The Royal Engineers decided on the sites, then they were built by local contractors to meet government specifications. The work was often carried out by volunteers who were paid a "dole". Of the 15,000 constructed, two-thirds survive.

Within the Hundred Parishes about 45 were built, mainly as part of a line stretching between Chelmsford and Cambridge. In Great Waltham Parish a "World War Two Trail" of 4 miles passes thirteen pillboxes around Hartford End with informative interpretation panels.



The pillboxes were virtually obsolete as soon as they were built, being designed for an invasion that never came.

Mike Young, Trustee

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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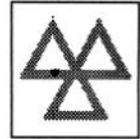
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Five ways to support your local Hospice from your own home

St Clare Hospice has reported a potential £100,000 gap in their voluntary income, due to the cancellation of fundraising events and the closure of their nine charity shops, in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. St Clare, which

is celebrating its 30th Birthday since its founding in 1990, has launched an 'urgent fundraising appeal' to minimise any impact on continuing to provide specialist palliative care to local people in the community. You can help by taking part in a series of 'virtual' fundraising activities that can be achieved from the comfort of your own home – most of which whilst still relaxing on the sofa.

1. Use your daily exercise to take part in St Clare's Virtual 5K

You can do this at home, in the local neighbourhood when you're out walking or running once a day. All you have to do is take a photo/screenshot of your fitness tracker. Sign up at [📍 stclarehospice.org.uk/virtual5k](https://stclarehospice.org.uk/virtual5k).

2. Play the St Clare Lottery

You could be in with a chance of winning £1,000, or up to 24 other cash prizes, every week when you play the St Clare Lottery. An entry is just £1 per weekly entry. Sign up at [📍 stclarehospice.org.uk/lottery](https://stclarehospice.org.uk/lottery).

3. Set up a Facebook Fundraiser

Set up a fundraiser in aid of St Clare Hospice using Facebook. You can encourage your friends and family to donate – and no matter how much you raise, every penny counts. Set up a fundraiser at [📍 facebook.com/fund/stclarehospice](https://facebook.com/fund/stclarehospice).

4. Shop online via St Clare's eBay shop

There are plenty of bargains in St Clare's eBay shop. From quirky collectables to designer clothing, you can get premium, pre-loved goods delivered straight to your door. Shop now at [📍 ebay.co.uk/str/st-clare-hospice](https://ebay.co.uk/str/st-clare-hospice).

5. Use online, charity shopping portals like EasyFundraising or AmazonSmile

You can generate donations to St Clare whilst doing your normal, online shopping – at no extra cost to you. Visit [📍 easyfundraising.org.uk](https://easyfundraising.org.uk) or smile.amazon.co.uk and select St Clare Hospice, then continue your online shop as normal.

To sign up to any of St Clare's virtual fundraising activities, please call [📞 773750](tel:773750) or [✉ fund@stclarehospice.org.uk](mailto:fund@stclarehospice.org.uk). To donate directly, please visit [📍 stclarehospice.org.uk/urgent-fundraising-appeal](https://stclarehospice.org.uk/urgent-fundraising-appeal).

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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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

By Sally Rich, Vice Chair ☎ 07874 385541

✉ stanstedu3a@gmail.com

Stansted Mountfitchet U3A
10th Anniversary 2019-20



This won't be the usual style of article from us this month. For some reason, we have not been getting out much!

The U3A, motto Learn, Laugh and Live, is a nationwide grouping of independent U3As under the umbrella of the Third Age Trust. Our U3A, a registered charity, has been in existence for 10 years now and, with over 300 members and around 30 interest groups, there has been a lot of opportunity for people to make friends locally in Stansted and the surrounding villages. This has paid dividends in these difficult times of self-isolation. People have been telephoning and using social media to keep in touch. In particular, some of our members have been phoning those few who do not have email or internet to make sure they can keep in touch with what is happening in our group.

We have extended the time that people need to re-join from the end of April to the end of July as so many of our members need to self-isolate, and our AGM has been put back from May to August. All our other face-to-face meetings are cancelled until at least the end of June. If new members want to join, ✉ stanstedu3a@gmail.com and we will let you know how to do that despite the lockdown.

We have set up a closed **Facebook** group for members. Search for Stansted U3A on Facebook and request to join. People have been posting ideas there for free online plays, musicals and music and an online exercise class and generally sharing news of what they have been doing.

Many of our interest groups have been making sterling efforts to keep going via WhatsApp, Zoom and emails – new technology for some, but being embraced by many.



Our popular **Saturday Seminars** will be slightly different for a time. The seminar for April was a YouTube video from Carolin Crawford, the Astronomer who has visited us a few times now. A link to her lecture at the Gresham Institute, The Sun our Nearest Star, can be found on the News page ☎ www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted and a new talk should also be on there by the time you are reading this.

Let's hope this self-isolation does not keep going for too long, but while it does, let's try and use the time it is giving us to find new ways to connect with friends and loved ones and maybe find new interests or re-connect with old ones.

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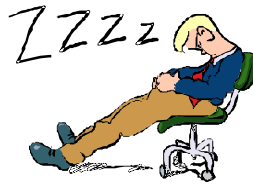
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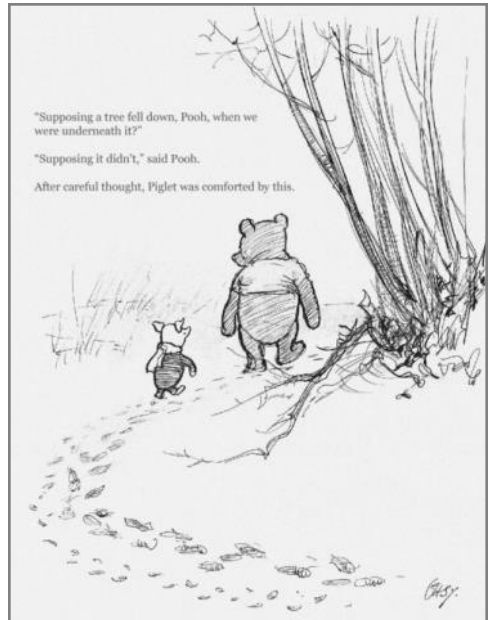
(Working from Home & Stuck at Home)

Some time ago I joined the ranks of the retired. Initially it was quite a shock not GOING to work. At the start I could go out and do things and meet friends etc. Sadly, NOT NOW.

In *The House at Pooh Corner*, Pooh goes for a walk, Piglet asks what will happen if a tree fell on him. "Supposing it didn't," says Pooh. Piglet is comforted by this. While the pessimist prepares to dig plague pits, we "Winnie" types stay positive, while sensibly washing our hands in isolation.

Some reasons why life in corona crisis isn't as bad as it might seem;-

1. Being sent home happened just as our gardens exploded into colour.
2. Self-isolation gives you the perfect excuse to avoid seeing the people you never wanted to see anyway.
3. We can stop feeling guilty as we consume take-aways, we are doing our bit to support the local economy.
4. After a few weeks we will finally know everyone's hair colour.
5. The clocks have gone forward. Excuse for an evening barbecue.
6. Footballs fans with no game to watch are discovering new things about their family. Such as their wife left last October!
7. Grandparents use all the soap their relatives gave them as presents.
8. Finally, there is a suggestion that Hydroxychloroquine, an anti-malarial drug is effective against the virus. Since tonic water contains this, "Anyone for a G & T?" Lemons also help to prevent scurvy.



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MEET ME AT THE MUSEUM

By Anne Youngson

Reviewed by Marion Giles



'When Tina Hopgood writes a letter of regret to a man she has never met, she doesn't expect a reply. A deep and luminous story of late love and second chances - an enduring novel of ideas about life, love and the surprises it throws at us. ...' So says the blurb on the back of the book.

Reviews:

- 'A moving tribute to friendship and love, to the courage of the ordinary, and to starting again.' *Rachel Joyce*
- 'A thoughtful and gentle meditation on buried passions, regrets, love, grief and loneliness... Youngson's debut offers hope for change in its tender exploration of what it means to have experienced a life well-lived.' *The Guardian*
- 'A quirky, wise and tender novel. Proof that the richest fruits come on the edge of autumn.' *Sarah Dunant*

This was the choice of the book group this month and it was liked by all. The member who chose this month did so because she had enjoyed *84 Charing Cross Road* by Helene Hanff. This book is similar in that it is written as a series of letters exchanged by two people and there is no narrative. It is not similar in that the characters' friendship becomes very personal in content as they reveal aspects of their personalities and their life stories.

The two characters in question are Anders, a widowed curator of a museum in Denmark and Tina, a farmer's wife, in East Anglia. Tina is one of several schoolgirls who featured in a dedication of a publication written by a professor about the Tollund Man, which is exhibited at the museum. The death of one of her schoolgirl friends reminds her of her regret in never having visited the exhibit even though she perhaps could have. So she writes to the museum to express this regret. Anders responds to her letter.

It would be a plot spoiler to talk more about the content of the letters and the outcome as their life stories and relationships and events unfold over the course of the novel. As the letter writing becomes more important to them, they replace physical letters with emails, which means they start to write more frequently. Although Anders lives alone, Tina does not and so there is a secretive aspect to their letter writing and relationship that is not explored.

We learn about their respective marriages and their children and their past choices. We are given insight into what their relationship means to each other through their letters which become increasingly affectionate. There are many lovely passages that describe their emotions and feelings, which are uplifting.

In general, we had strong affection for Anders, maybe not so much for Tina.

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May 2020

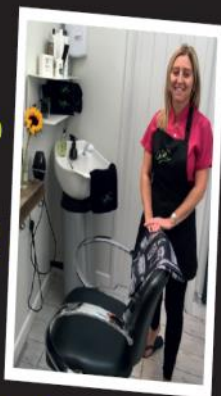
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Well, we were raring to go – indeed we are raring to go. Who could have anticipated the problems that the world is facing at this moment in time? A few scientists, probably, but did anybody listen?

The ground at Stansted House is looking lovely. The club had major work done on the wicket and with all the rain, followed by sunshine, our timing could not have been better. Work on the pavilion at Molehill Green is progressing really well and should be finished in May. The ground needs more work on both wicket and outfield but this will be done in due course.

The club have been sending out regular newsletters to all members to keep them informed of progress and giving them links to websites so that they can have a cricket fix if they need one!

We have no idea when the cricket season will begin. Essex Cricket and the ECB are waiting for instructions from the Government. Our hope is that we may start the first weekend in July – a pure guess.

In the meantime our thoughts are with the families that have been adversely effected by coronavirus. We should also mention the NHS staff who have shown exceptional bravery and other front line workers. From all at Stansted Hall & Elsenham Cricket Club, a huge thank you.

#QUARANTQUIZ

Unscramble the following to find names of countries. For example:

LIT A HAND = THAILAND

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. MEG RYAN | 9. TAPA SKIN |
| 2. I SAID NONE | 10. MEAT RIOTS |
| 3. OKRA T HOUSE | 11. DR NELIA |
| 4. PARIS GONE | 12. VS DE LIMA |
| 5. LANTERN SHED | 13. SUCH A FAIR OT |
| 6. SATAN BOW | 14. HANDLE BAGS |
| 7. RISK ALAN | 15. RENT AGAIN |
| 8. MR NAKED | 16. ACID MO BA |
| | 17. OUR HANDS |
| | 18. LIT THE INCENSE |
| | 19. BY ALI |
| | 20. IN A GLOO |

Answers in next month's magazine

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We sincerely hope that you are all keeping safe and well during this very unreal time. Like so many other events in the village, the Bowls Club's matches and leagues have been cancelled for the foreseeable future. However the maintenance of the green still continues with a great team of members, keeping a safe distance from each other, going regularly to cut the grass, paint and do all the other jobs that need doing.

When life returns to normal, the bowls green will be in perfect condition to play and although matches have been rescheduled for next year we are hoping that members, new and old, will come along for a friendly match or two and maybe a bacon sandwich or burger washed down with a nice cool drink from the bar. Can't wait.

There is a wonderful sense of 'working together' around us at present with people reaching out to help and support those who are vulnerable or unwell. I am so grateful that I live in such a caring community and I thank you all for following the guidelines and keeping us safe.

A very big THANK YOU also to all those frontline workers in the NHS – keep safe.

THE NUMBER GAME

Can you work these out. For example:

57 HV = 57 HEINZ VARIETIES

1. 7 D in a W
2. 1666 G F of L
3. 12 S of the Z
4. The 10 C
5. 64 S on a C B
6. 52 C in a D
7. S W and the 7 D
8. 101 D
9. 2 P in a P

10. 1969 F M on the M
11. 180 M S with 3 D
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Answers in next month's magazine

EMMY beauty

Qualified Eyelash Technician and Make-Up Artist / Leigh Drive -Elsenham

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These lashes being a thicker extension to natural eyelashes recommended for a natural look.

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CONTACT: 07969747609 (text only)
emilysbannerman@gmail.com

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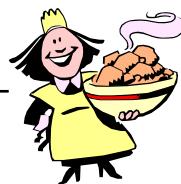
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The difference is clear

COOKERY CORNER

By Sue Johnson 🍷 812704



This is a self-saucing lemon drizzle pudding. Really good comfort food - we could all do with some of that at the moment!

LEMON DRIZZLE SPONGE PUDDING (serves 4-6)

- 4oz (125g) butter, at room temperature
- 4oz (125g) + 2oz (65g) caster sugar
- 2 eggs
- 4oz (125g) self-raising flour
- ½ tsp baking powder
- 1½ lemons, zested and juiced
- 1½ tablespoons cornflour

For the drizzle

- 1oz (25g) icing sugar
- ½ lemon, zested and juiced

Heat the oven to 180°C/160°C fan/gas mark 4. Butter an 8 inch (20cm) round deep baking dish.

Put the butter and 4oz (125g) caster sugar in a bowl and beat for 5 minutes until pale and fluffy. Whisk in the eggs, then sieve over the flour and baking powder and fold in until you have a batter. Stir in the lemon zest.

Spoon the sponge batter into the dish and smooth over the top.

Mix the lemon juice with the cornflour in a heatproof bowl to make a smooth paste. Mix the remaining 2oz (65g) sugar with ¼ pint (150 ml) boiling water in a jug, pour over the cornflour mix and whisk until smooth. Pour this over the sponge. Bake for 30-40 minutes until golden and set. The sponge should spring back when touched.

While the pudding is baking, make the lemon drizzle. Mix the icing sugar with the lemon juice to create a loose consistency. Drizzle over the sponge while it's still warm and decorate with the reserved lemon zest. Serve with cream or custard.

CHEF'S RECOMMENDATION: Lemons are especially good at this time of year. If you find you have some left, this delicious dessert is very nice warmed up next day and the day after.....

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 TBC

Vintage Toy and Doll Display St Mary's Church Sat 20/Sun 21 June

Henham School Fun Run and Fete Sunday 28 June

Elsenham Flower Show Saturday 22 August 3pm Memorial Hall

Santa visits the village 5 December 1pm Village Hall

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)	Jill French	647543
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

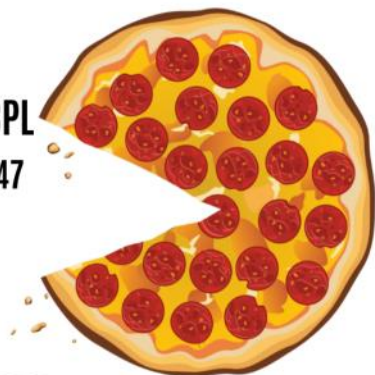
If you would like your village organisation contact to appear regularly in the magazine, please contact one of the editors, see opposite for details.

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