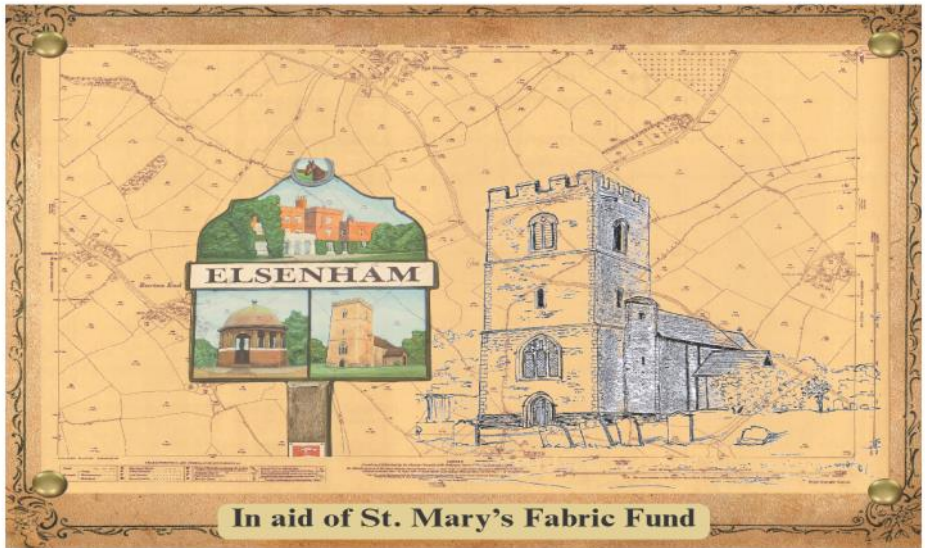


Elsenham News

Old Elsenham Exhibition Pictures and Artefacts



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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

May 2024 diary

Thurs 2	Election Police, Fire and Crime	Memorial Hall 7am to 10pm
Tues 7	Henham & District Garden Soc	Outing
Tues 7 & 21	Elsenham Community Choir	Village Hall 7pm
Thurs 9	ECA meeting	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Fri 10 & 24	Church Lunch Club	Memorial Hall 12.30pm
Mon 13	Parish Council Meeting	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Mon 13	Natter Night	The Crown 7.30pm
Tues 14 & 28	Life Drawing	Village Hall 7.30pm
Thurs 16	WI	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Sat 18	EFSS Plant sale	Memorial Hall 10am - 2pm
Sat 18	Bingo	Bowls & Social Club 7.30pm for 8pm
Sat 25	Elsenham Farmers Market	Village Hall 12.30 - 2.30pm
Sat 25	Neil Diamond Tribute	Bowls & Social Club 7.30pm
Sun 26	Bowls Club Open Day	Bowls & Social Club 10am - 4pm
Mon 27	Elsenham Eagles	The Crown 7.30pm



Mobile Library
Every third Thursday stopping at Glebe End

11.50 am to 12.20 pm

9 and 30 May

Elsenham Village Regular Weekly Activities

Day	Time	Activity	Location
Monday	9.30-10.30am	Zumba	Memorial Hall
	10.30-11.30am	Health walk	Start at De Mandeville Green
	4-4.30pm	Rascals (3-4yrs)	Memorial Hall (term time)
	4.30-5.30pm	Rascals (5-7yrs)	Memorial Hall (term time)
	5.30-7pm	Rascals (8-12yrs)	Memorial Hall (term time)
	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)



We can still hardly believe that our Market has only been going since August last year, and boy has it grown!

We started off with 6 stalls and now there are 12-14 regular sellers, and sometimes more, especially for seasonal occasions.

We have tried really hard to ensure that we only sell consumable produce or allied products, and that everything is as local as possible; sold by small independent sellers.

In all honesty, we have never come across a group of such friendly and lovely folk as our stallholders, and seeing them (and our customers of course) is always an absolute pleasure.

So if you haven't been for a while, do pop by. We are open from 12.30-2.30pm. You will not be disappointed.

The products that are now regularly available are:- barista coffee & cakes, eggs, honey, fresh apple juice, chilli jam & ginger jelly, environmentally friendly cleaning products, pork & lamb, homemade dog treats, sourdough bread & focaccia, health & wellness drinks, fruit curds, artisan savoury bakes, macarons, chutneys, oils and preserves, cheeses and fabulous fish! We also have guest sellers, so keep an eye out for them.

The majority of the produce is homemade, so not only do you get these most amazing treats once a month, you are also supporting local businesses as well as coming together with our fabulous community!

The markets for the rest of the year are as follows:- 25th MAY, 29th JUNE, 27th JULY, 31st AUGUST, 28th SEPTEMBER, 26th OCTOBER, 30th NOVEMBER (all things festive & more!)

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

We look forward to seeing you.

Best wishes from Elsenham Farmers Market Team

THE NEWS REPORT

From The Editors



During the past few weeks we at Elsenham News have received a support payment from the Parish Council. Not only do we thank them (from all on the team) but it delights us that this means this village magazine can continue.

Produced and distributed by volunteers within the village for the residents of the village. There are many organisations and activities undertaken in the same way, by people on behalf of other people, and they all need help. Which is why it would be great if you, the reader, could help any of the other village organisations looking for help - particularly the fete committee.

Also, we are proud that we continue to attract new advertisers. If you contact any of them, please mention you saw their ad in the village magazine!

If the greater quality of life that a village environment offers, then we implore you to read Development Developments (pg11) and the issues thrown up by our airport neighbours (pg 43). Make sure you have your say on any of the issues you feel strongly about.

Above all, get your diaries out and make sure you put those important dates in; old Elsenham exhibition, village fete and the Bowls Club open day to name but a few.

Enjoy the events and here's to improved weather to make them even more memorable.

Elsenham Village Fete is on Saturday June 22 on the Playing Field. If you are able to volunteer to help or would like to book your pitch please email

✉ elsenhamsummerfete@gmail.com

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Elsenham Village Fete

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ELSENHAM VILLAGE FETE 2024

Saturday 22nd June 1-4pm and 5-8pm

The summer fete is always a highlight in the village calendar, and this year is no exception. We have many things planned to entertain you throughout the afternoon, and we are introducing an all new live music experience in the evening.

Be sure to mark Saturday 22 June 2024 in your diary, because this is one you won't want to miss!

There is something for everyone, from bouncy castles and steam trains, to petting animals and quirky vehicles.

Meet up with family and friends, enjoy arena entertainment, listen to the joyful sounds of the steel band. Delight in the taste of street food, cool down with an ice-cream, indulge in some cake. Treat yourself to a cocktail, a glass of fizz, or perhaps some funky ale. Peruse artisan gift stalls, be amazed by the magician, and much, much more.

If you'd like to get involved with running a pitch or can lend a helping hand to this fabulous community event, either in the run up or on the day, please email:

✉ elsenhamsummerfete@gmail.com

Don't forget to visit our website and follow Elsenham Village Fete on social media for updates and more info:

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ELSENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MARCH 2024

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



A planning application has been submitted by Gladman for 240 houses north of Bedwell Road. Although this development would be half in Ugley and half in Henham it is right on the Elsenham boundary, making the major impact on Elsenham. This planning application was refused on appeal in September 2021 with noise being the determinative factor, the noise coming from the motorway and the railway line. Elsenham Parish Council have engaged a noise consultant to prepare a report on their behalf, for submission to Uttlesford District Council objecting to this planning application. Henham Parish Council have agreed to pay 50% of the cost.

District Cllr. Donald gave a summary on the investigation regarding the failing of the District Council to supply one of their fundamental services to collect household and industrial waste bins over several weeks. The committee looked at what went wrong and the cost to the taxpayer. The District Council apologises for the disruption of the services. The full report will be broadcast on 16 April 2024. The report will also be recorded in the minutes of the meeting which will be on UDC's website.

The Fire and Police Commissioner elections are taking place on 2 May 2024 in the Memorial Hall.

The Flowerbed Committee has been successful in obtaining a grant from UDC for £1,000, this will go to help curate a wildflower area on De-Mandeville Green.

The Parish Clerk had attended two meetings with Uttlesford District Council and Essex Police regarding part funding a PCSO with Stansted and Henham villages. However, there were many questions left unanswered, another meeting is to be held on 19 April 2024. The Parish Council will require more information before committing to spending public money on a PCSO.

Stephens Bus Company have increased their prices by 4.2%. However, the £2.00 capped fare still applies which runs until **31st December 2024**, this limits the price of any **single journey** to a maximum of £2.00.

After a 4-year absence the Essex Village of the Year and Rural Community Awards are back. It was agreed that Moyra Jackson, co-opted member of the Allotment Committee and Chair of the Flowerbed Committee, would complete the nomination form for the 'Best Village Award'. This year there are three other categories; Village Hall and Community Building Award, Community and Voluntary Group Award and Community Enterprise Award. All entries must be submitted no later than Monday 3 June 2024. If you wish to nominate anyone, or you can even

The next meeting is the Annual Parish Council meeting on Monday May 13, starting at 7.45pm in the Memorial Hall.



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DEVELOPMENT DEVELOPMENTS

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



Uttlesford District Council have extended the deadline until 15 May for representations concerning the application by Gladman to build 240 new homes to the north of Bedwell Road - see last month. You can email your objections to planning@uttlesford.gov.uk citing Reference UTT/24/0543/OP. Noise from the motorway is the dominant issue. For good measure, the site extends as far as the railway, so it would be noisy on both sides.

UDC have at last published the results of the 'Regulation 18' consultation into the Local Plan, which closed as long ago as 15 December 2023. The reason for the long delay was said to be that a reply would be given by planning officers to all the submissions, which would be grouped together as necessary. But there is no sign of these replies - they have disappeared to the extent that there is not even so much as an acknowledgment of their disappearance, and enquiries as to their whereabouts have been met with silence. Uttlesford presumably regret that they ever made such an undertaking. Many respondents found the system difficult to master, with the consequence that some responses are in the wrong place, and it's not always clear what exactly they relate to.

But if the system for making responses was obscure, the system for reviewing the responses is opaque indeed - or 'impenetrable and clunky' in words quoted by the Cabinet member with responsibility for Planning. UDC have promised an improved system for the next round of consultations - but the timetable is tighter than a developer's wallet when asked to make a reasonable contribution to infrastructure. UDC are supposed to review all the responses and make necessary amendments to the Plan for the 'Regulation 19' consultation, which is scheduled for summer 2024. By the end of 2024, the results should go to the Inspector who will decide if the Plan is acceptable. Adoption of the Plan is speculatively put down for spring 2026. The next district elections will be held in May 2027.

In Stansted parish, in the area between the motorway and May Walk, a string of applications has been made over many months, as if it's hoped that no-one will notice that, taken together, they amount to large-scale development, a bit at a time. The latest proposal was to build five houses, and used the S62A procedure, probably because UDC had already turned down an application for 11 on the same site. But the Inspectorate refused it. There is no right of appeal, since the application has already been determined by the appeal body. Two other applications in the same general area were refused by UDC - one for a swimming pool and one for a tennis court. The inevitable appeals were lodged against both refusals within a fortnight or so. The continuous stream of applications and appeals could be regarded as an abuse of the process - but there is no such provision, and the formula is always, 'each case must be considered on its merits'.

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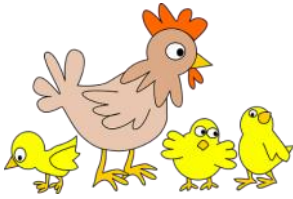
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Daisy May's Farm

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We are open until 4pm every day and you can come and see all the babies, you can feed the lambs their milk by bottle (12pm, 2pm and 4pm) and hold the adorable chicks and ducklings and get to know them better!

These lambs might look like butter wouldn't melt in their mouths, but trust me, come lights out, it's like a scene from Shaun the Sheep.....absolutely hilarious!!

There are lots of other animals to see and feed and there are also so many activities to enjoy on the farm, from exploring the Woodland Trail, the train ride, playing on the activity equipment, splashing in the stream, seasonal arts & crafts and competitions.

We also have food and refreshments available, so all you have to do is come and enjoy yourselves!

There is no need to pre-book and entry is only £6 each, but please be aware we have no credit card facilities. Most importantly, **WEAR WELLIES** if it's wet!

If your child wants a party to remember, then why not book one with us? We can offer a truly individual occasion that they can enjoy with their friends and all our lovely animals!

We also welcome school parties and can tailor the visit to suit your needs, so do get in touch to have a chat and find out more.

Always keep an eye on our Facebook page for animal updates and other important information.



We **always** need help in so many ways, particularly when there is **so** much to do. So if you have a little time to spare, **please** get in touch, we would **love** to hear from you. Please contact ☎ 07747 787973 or take a look at our website 🌐 www.daisymaysfarm.org to find out more. Thank you so much.

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ELSENHAM VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

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



The village magazine has been around for nearly fifty years. Originally it consisted of a single foolscap sheet produced on a Roneo machine. How many people still remember those? Published somewhat irregularly at first and not until 1979 was the decision made by the ECA to make it a free, regular, monthly publication for every house in Elsenham.

In those days Stansted Airport was much in the news and in early 1980 the magazine reported that the Government was proposing to increase capacity from the then 300,000 passengers a year to 15 million and more. Public meetings were held, and 72 residents turned out for the one in the Village Hall. Outlining the expected changes to the surrounding villages, the writer noted that the effects could only be imagined. Today, as we look about us, we don't have to imagine, there were 27 million passengers last year! Of more local interest, the Parish Council advised that land acquisition was to go ahead to provide a pavement outside the Crown Inn which, it was hoped, would be completed by the end of the year. Another proposal for pavements outside the Station Garage (now Hunters Court) and along New Road was put forward for consideration by the Highways Department.

In 1982, the January issue published outline proposals for a new school hall to be built to the west of the old school building, part replacing the existing Village Hall. The old hall was built at the turn of the twentieth century and becoming increasingly difficult, if not impossible, to maintain. Also, it would no longer be financially viable as most of its income came from school hirings. Work on the hall started in June that year and the new hall opened for business in March 1983.

Finally, I was amused by the "Inefficiency Award" presented to British Railways (Eastern Region) by local commuters in February 1979 celebrating the first right time arrival of the 08.41 from Cambridge that year. I was even more amused by the refusal of BR(ER) to accept the award as, according to their records, the train was in fact, two minutes late arriving at Liverpool Street. Who said public institutions didn't have a sense of humour!

Our thanks go to the editors and contributors to the village magazines past and present and all their helpers for all their hard work keeping the village informed.

We have all heard of the grand old Duke of York and his ten thousand men. But there was more to this man that we will discover when Richard Till returns for our next meeting with his talk "The Grand Old Duke of York and His Embarrassing Mistress." This will be on Wednesday June 12 at 8pm in the Memorial Hall and promises to be an entertaining evening. Visitors are always welcome for a very modest two pounds but even better, membership costs just five pounds for a full year's meetings. See you there?




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ELSENHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

By Moyra Jackson ☎ 077655 000807

✉ elsenhamwi@gmail.com



In my role as Federation Chair, I have the privilege of visiting not only Essex WIs but neighbouring Federations too. This past month saw me clock up just short of 1000 miles travelling to Dorking, Tunbridge Wells, and Eastbourne as well as many WIs across Essex. It is lovely to meet WI members and chat to them. They all seem to have the same highs and lows as we have and it is good to share experiences and ideas. Not only do I get to meet other WI members but occasionally I get the chance to meet the speakers – some of them are well-known household names and others not so well-known but sometimes more interesting!

At Eastbourne I was delighted to meet Patrick Grant, probably best known as a judge on the Great British Sewing Bee. My fellow traveller Jan and I were determined to get a photo taken with him. There was a huge queue at the lift to take us up to the fifth floor in the Winter Gardens where lunch was being served so we ran (yes, really) up 5 flights of stairs to beat the crowd. Eventually, when I got my breath back and was able to speak, Patrick and I had a lovely chat about our home town of Edinburgh and his very favourable views on the WI movement. The lesson I learned was that at 5'0" tall it is not always a good idea to be photographed with someone 6' 5"!



We always have our Annual Meeting in May, so we are busy preparing for that. We hear about all we have done in the past year plus our plans for the future, how our finances have fared and give our thanks to all who work so hard to keep our WI going. Our competition for this month is something with the letter 'A.'

Coming along to Elsenham WI is a really good way to meet friends especially if you are new to Elsenham and while we are very 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 anytime 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. 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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ELSENHAM VILLAGE CAFE

By Sue Waite

Jo Hotten from St Claire's Hospice paid us a visit on April 9 to say thank you for raising £350 for the charity. She brought with her this big cheque so that we could have our photo taken to celebrate how successful our coffee morning was.

I would also like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone who came along and supported us and helped us raise such a lovely amount of money. Also, thank you again to Nick Herbert for donating £100 so that our final amount was £350.



STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

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



Juniors are now being coached outdoors ahead of the new season. All coaches are fully qualified and all relevant paperwork is up to date. The club continues to look for young players in all age groups, although our squad numbers are limited, enabling everybody to play in matches. We are delighted to confirm that Anya Shrubsole will be visiting the ground during the summer to give our youngsters a training session. Anya played for England between 2008-2022 and was a two-time World Cup winner. Famously she took six wickets in the 2017 final at Lords.

As mentioned before the club is celebrating 50 years of cricket at Stansted House this year. On the April 28 1974 the first match on our beautiful ground was against a Robin Hobbs XI. Robin played cricket for Essex and England and his team included Keith Fletcher, a young Graham Gooch, and many of the Essex 1st XI at that time. Unfortunately Robin died recently but he will be missed by many as he was a 'fun' character. The club team that day included Colin Cowdrey.

Any new potential players, supporters, or cricket enthusiasts interested in joining our club please contact me as above.

My name is Samantha, I am an Accredited BACP Counsellor.

How have you been? Are you struggling with everyday life? Perhaps feeling overwhelmed, feeling lost inside, anxious or depressed. Sometimes it can feel overwhelming, painful and confusing to navigate life.

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I also offer a mobile service for clients who live locally in the Epping area.

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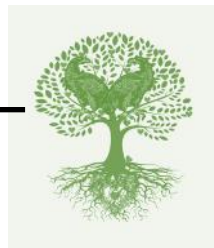
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ELSENHAM EAGLES

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✉ elsenhams.action@btinternet.com



Sustainable Bouquets for Elsenham Parish Council

We'd like to celebrate some very good work for the environment which is being done by Elsenham Parish Council (EPC). Elsenham is now officially a "Pesticide-free zone"!

- EPC have a new pesticide policy which means that pesticides are only being used where they are essential to control invasive species
- A "Climate Change and Environment Committee" has now been established
- EPC have voted to give permission for ECA to erect an electric car charger in the Memorial Hall car park.
- EPC are aiming to build the new community centre to green credentials, as much as budget will allow
- For some years now, under the auspices of Elsenham Rights of Way and Open Spaces Committee (EROWOS), there have been wildflower areas in the spinney and playing field. These areas continue to be tended by members of EROWOS.

Printer cartridge recycling

There is now a printer cartridge recycling box at the Post Office. Your used printer cartridges, if placed in this box, will ultimately result in a donation to Elsenham Community Association. This is in addition to the box at Elsenham Station and the box which is taken to WI meetings.

ELSENHAM FLOWER SHOW SOCIETY

✉ suewaite2003@yahoo.co.uk or

✉ lynda.jolly@btinternet.com



Saturday 18 May, 2024

Plant Sale

In the Memorial Hall 10am – 2pm

Only a few more weeks to go before the Plant Sale is here and the EFSS committee have been busy growing a large selection of flowers and vegetables for you to buy to make your gardens look even more beautiful and with luck they will all be standing upright waiting for you on Saturday May 18.

We have had a few new people confirming they will open their lovely gardens for us in June, but if you are still thinking about it, we would love to hear from you, so please contact Sue or Lynda. We hope you have read the schedule for the Flower Show in August and have chosen all the competitions you want to enter. Please complete your Entry Form and return it to either Sue or Lynda before the 10 August. These forms can also be obtained from the Post Office.

See you at the Plant Sale: Allen, Sue, Lynda, Brian and Lynda

May 2024

Keeping warm this winter

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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
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- 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 . Advice is always completely free and confidential.

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ELSENHAM



THE AUBREY BUXTON NATURE RESERVE

By John Welham, Warden

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

Spring has arrived and with it comes a host of changes in the nature reserve. We say goodbye to some bird species such as redpolls, siskins and redwings that have spent the winter here but, as they head north to their breeding grounds, we welcome back the summer visitors who join the full-time residents singing to establish territories and find a mate. Chiff chaff and blackcap are two arrivals that you will hear but the loudest bird in the wood is still the song thrush which can be heard singing even well before you enter the wood.

If you are interested in getting some help in identifying birds from their song, then I can recommend the Merlin Bird ID App for your phone. It is free and generally very good.

One species of note that has arrived for the first time in the reserve is the ring-necked parakeet. An introduced species, this has been spreading since the 1970s and, whilst I have seen them flying over Stansted in recent years, this is the first time I have seen a pair in the reserve.

The repairs to the car park have been completed and my thanks go to the volunteer group and to Essex Highways and Eurovia who supplied the road scrapings.

With the amount of recent rainfall, it is unsurprising that all the permanent and temporary ponds are currently full so that much of the reserve has a wetland feel with water on both sides of the boardwalks. This harks back to the origins of the reserve which was originally a wildlife park focused primarily on wetland birds. It was advertised as the largest private bird sanctuary in Britain and had over 100 species including flamingos. Entry was 5 shillings for adults. It would be interesting to hear from any residents who visited the park back then.

GARDEN HINT *By Sue Johnson*

Give bees a free boost – dandelions are an important source of spring food for emerging bees. Leave as many as you can to flower, then remove seed-heads to stop unwanted spreading.





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EVERY TUESDAY IN ELSENHAM

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

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ELSENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

Outdoor Gym—Your Voice Matters!

Do you want to keep fit but can't find the time to get to the nearest gym? Are the costs of the joining fee and monthly membership holding you back? Are you such an ad hoc gym user that the monthly membership isn't value for money? How would you feel if there was an outdoor gym in the village that could be used at a time to suit you?



Elsenham Parish Council are investigating whether we should install an outdoor gym on the playing field next to the tennis courts.

The area would have additional seating, litter bins and a table tennis table and will be covered by a security camera.

We want to hear from you! Please pop onto the Elsenham Parish Council Facebook page and complete the very short survey. Your opinion matters!!

From The Parish Registers

Burial of Ashes:

On 21st March 2024 in Elsenham Churchyard, Barbara Rose Nunn.

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	office@heuchurch.co.uk	
Church web-site	www.heuchurch.co.uk	

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

ST MARY'S CHURCH ELSENHAM

Office@heuchurch.co.uk

Thought For The Month by *Louis Wilson*

For the last 11 years, we have attended an event in Eastbourne called Bible by the Beach. A few years ago, Helen Roseveare the medical missionary was a speaker and told us this story about a trip to America.

She arrived at Chicago Airport and found that she had left all her travel documents at her friend's house: wallet, passport and ticket. These were the days before any mobiles or internet.

She joined the check-in queue anyway, got to the front and said: My name is Helen Roseveare, I don't have a ticket or passport or wallet - is there anything you can do? No, came the answer, there is nothing we can do.

She went to the back of the queue and she prayed. She moved back to the front and tried again. This time the attendant said: There is one possibility: If you can get someone to act as your guarantor to prove you are who you say you are, and to pay for your ticket, we'll let you on the flight....

Helen Roseveare did not know where to turn so asked: *Do you have a Chicago City phonebook? Would you be willing to look someone up for me?*

Sure, said the attendant – who shall I look up? Dr Roseveare said, *I want you to start at the letter A – and I want you to stop when you reach the first name that has Reverend after it.*

So the attendant started looking and said: I've found one, there is a Rev. Atkins.

Please would you be willing to call him for me? The attendant calls. A man picks up the phone. Yes, it's Rev. Atkins here. You have Helen Roseveare at the airport? I'd be delighted to act as her guarantor and I will come right away.

The man arrived at the airport, paid the money, she got the ticket and was able to go on her way. But before she left, he said to her: Mrs Roseveare, you might be wondering why I've done this. Please would you allow me to explain?

Years ago, I was travelling round Asia with my girlfriend. We weren't Christians and to be honest we got up to some pretty bad stuff: drugs, alcohol, everything. We found ourselves in Kabul in Afghanistan. We were both desperately ill. We didn't know what to do. We knocked on the door of the British consulate. They let us come in and use a tiny room.

My girlfriend went straight to sleep, but I couldn't. Eventually, I opened the bedside cabinet and found nothing except a book called *Give me this mountain*. [*Give me this mountain is the autobiography of Dr. Helen Roseveare*]

That night, I read your book and I became a Christian. My girlfriend and I both recovered, and we got back to America. My girlfriend also became a Christian, and is now my wife. For the last 15 years I've been pastor of a church here in Chicago. Mrs. Roseveare, after all these years, it is a pleasure to meet you!

Friends, you never know what might happen if you read a good book.

CHURCH EVENTS IN OUR VILLAGES MAY 2024

Church Services

Sunday 5th May

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

18:00 Sunday@6, HUSCH*, Henham

Thursday 9th May

19:45 Ascension Day Communion
Service, Ugley Church

Sunday 12th May

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 19th May

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 26th May

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

* HUSCH: Henham & Ugley School Hall

**Olympic Adventure Holiday Club is
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**30 & 31 May 2024 (May Half-Term)
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10:00 am to 2:00pm for YR to Y6

Olympic games, songs, quizzes,
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Other Regular Events

SUNDAYS:

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

Starts at EVH then onto

Old Frank's, Elsenham, 10.15am

Sundays: 12th & 19th

Pathfinders (Y6-Y9)

**HUSCH*, Henham 6.00pm - leave
from service to meet in the Church
Hall, Henham.**

Sundays: 5th, 12th & 19th

Crammin' (Y10-Y13)

**HUSCH*, Henham 6.00pm - leave
from service to meet at OSCA,
Henham. Sundays: 5th, 12th & 19th**

MID-WEEK AND SATURDAY:

Start the Week with Prayer

Church Hall, Henham 9.30am

Mondays: 13th, 20th & 27th

Seekers After School Bible Club

(Y3-Y4) Old Frank's 3.20pm

Mondays: 13th & 20th

Christian Play (Y1-Y2)

Rowan House, Elsenham 3.15pm

Tuesdays: 7th, 14th & 21st

Little Fishes Pre-School Group

Church Hall, Henham 10.30am

Thursday: 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd

Little Fishes Pre-School Group

Elsenham Memorial Hall 10.00am

Fridays: 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th

Church Lunch Club

Elsenham Memorial Hall 12.30pm

Fridays: (2nd & 4th Friday of the month):
10th & 24th

Afternoon Tea

OSCA, Henham 2.00pm

Saturday: 18th

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

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NATURAL OUTLOOK

By Heather Salvidge ☎ 814153



A little while ago I read a newspaper article on a butterfly survey released by the Butterfly Monitoring Scheme for 2023 declaring that it was the worst year since 1976 for the small tortoiseshell. So, I had a look at the record I have kept since 2016 of the butterflies and moths I have seen in our garden. It shows that the weather can be an important factor. Last year the first butterfly I saw, a small tortoiseshell, was in February, whereas in 2022, 2021 and 2020, nothing showed up until March. In 2019 a small tortoiseshell and a yellow brimstone were about in February but in 2018 I had to wait till April before I could record any; there were seven species, but a small tortoiseshell was not one of them. However, it did show up in March 2017 along with a yellow brimstone and a peacock. Towards the end of autumn, a red admiral was about until November in 2017 and again in 2021, along with a large white, but last year on it was on its own. A few more species made it through to October; large whites, a beige plume moth, a hummingbird hawk moth, a comma and a small tortoiseshell. Others were the white plume moth and the large yellow underwing. The peak months I have recorded are between May and August with July last year clocking up 17 species including two moths: a small purple and gold and our friend the hummingbird hawk moth.

Painted lady butterflies arrive in the summer on migration from North Africa and, depending on weather conditions, they do so in varying numbers. The variation in our summer weather will also determine whether we have a good or not very good time for them here before some of the survivors depart back to Africa, usually in August. They were here from June to September in 2019 when they had a good time on the buddleia but in other years I have only had them for just a month or two. There were none in 2020 **but** I did get a garden tiger and an elephant hawk moth for compensation and a painted lady visited for one month last year.

Other butterflies we see in the garden are orange tips (males have the tips and the females do without), holly blues, ringlets, green veined whites, meadow browns and small heaths. Daytime moths I like are: the small purple and gold, which can be found in various parts of the garden and on some of the plants in the greenhouse, the Silver Y moth, which has a marking on its fore wing like an upside-down pale Y, the cinnabar moth with its beautiful scarlet hind wings and decorated forewings, the red-belted clearwing which turned up in the raspberry patch and recently a Hebrew Character, so-called because of the marking on its forewings which resembles a character from the Hebrew alphabet. There have been others to admire when a friend stationed his overnight "trap" in our garden and came back in the morning to list the species collected and make sure they could fly off. Otherwise, in summer, the former cricket ground and part of the old gravel pit which now has a large drainage pond in one corner is a good place for a butterfly wander; look out for marble whites, small skippers and small coppers. Aubrey Buxton Reserve has some of the same plus, when you are lucky, gatekeepers, brown argus and speckled woods. I hope you manage to see at least some of these, especially small tortoiseshells!



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ST MARY'S FABRIC FUND ELSENHAM

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By *Stewart Pimblett, Chairman* ☎ 812359



Our next planned event is on the weekend of 1st and 2nd June and by now you should have seen it advertised throughout the village and this magazine. It promises to be a wonderful and fascinating exhibition of pictures and artefacts from old Elsenham from the collection of the late Gordon Barker and kindly assembled by his family. There will also be four short talks over the weekend explaining some of the local history. Refreshments will be available, and a barbecue is planned for the afternoon until the close on both days. Entry is free, so no excuses! Go and put the date on your calendar now. You certainly don't want to miss this rare opportunity.

Sometime in September we are planning to hold another "Bat Evening" at the church while the bats are still active, and it is not too late for children to attend. We have written to the Essex Bat Group, and they have replied saying they would find a volunteer to come and give us a talk. At the last event we held they even brought some live species of bats with them.

The committee are very aware that none of us are getting any younger and sadly our Christmas Tree Festival will go by the wayside unless we can find some new blood to carry things on. Therefore, I am appealing for volunteers from the village to get involved and find out what it takes to put on such an event. It would be such a shame if the village were to lose this event. You do not have to be a church member to join St. Mary's Fabric Fund which is there solely to support the upkeep of the building.

Finally, I look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to our Old Elsenham Exhibition at St. Marys Church in June.

Your bus service – use it or lose it!

By Bus Co-ordinator Ray Franklin

Stephensons, our local bus company, increased their fares by 4.2% from April 1.

This is due to an increase in operating costs, but the maximum single fare is capped at £2. Using the bus makes economic sense, especially when you factor in parking charges, assuming you can find somewhere to park.

I am pleased to report that the damaged bus shelter in Station Road has now been repaired.

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



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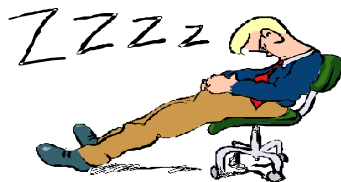
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- Why is it that check-out queues either side always move quicker than you?
- Why is it that shoppers never have the correct money or credit card at hand?
- Why is it that their wallet/purse is at the extreme bottom of their bag?
- Why is it their bag is SO BIG and the purse is just beneath a kitchen sink?
- Why is it that when you are in a hurry the credit card machine never works?
- Why is it that you worry that you may not have turned the cooker off?
- Why is it you cannot remember if you locked your door?

And are you sure?

Ray Franklin

ELSENHAM COMMUNITY CHOIR

Did you know that singing in a choir is believed to be so good for you, that doctors are considering prescribing it?

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If you like making new friends, achieving new goals, doing things that are good for you whilst having a laugh, eating chocolate, going home with a smile on your face, oh, and singing too, then come and join us at the **Elsenham Community Choir**, because that's what we do!

We meet on the first and third Tuesday of every month at 7.00pm until 8.30pm in Elsenham Village Hall (by Elsenham Primary School).



There are no auditions at our choir, everyone is welcome, just come along and sing!

Please just turn up or find us on our Elsenham Community Choir Facebook page.

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ELSENHAM BOWLS AND SOCIAL CLUB

By Trevor Hackett

☎ 07445 437437



The "Beatles / 60s" night was a great success; 66 people attended and were entertained in great style by skilled guitarist Paul Sharp. He covered the Beatles, plus Elvis and Cliff from the 60s. For those who missed him, he will be returning on 14 October for our Presentation Dinner & Dance where he will play a variety of music from the 60s to the 90s.

The next music night will be an evening with Gary Benjafield as "Neil Diamond" on May 25. Once again, tickets will be just £6 each including nibbles. Make sure you do not miss this event. He comes with an excellent reputation and is still performing in West End shows.

Our Saturday night bingo sessions are now monthly until the end of the bowls season in September. The bingo bonus is now over £100 so come along and get your chance to win. Next session will be on May 18; eyes down at 8 pm.

The Winter Crib league finished and will recommence in September. Elsenham A lost in the final of the Knock-Out Cup competition to the Royal British Legion.

Short Mat bowling has ended for the summer while the players enjoy the "sunshine" on a full sized green.

Our Open Day is on May 26 from 10 am to 4 pm. Why not come along and try your hand at this social and competitive sport of bowls? Flat soled footwear is required, and we do have a few sizes available in the club which you can use. We supply the bowls; you supply the enthusiasm, all for free on the day.

We are hosting a 6-rink county game between Essex and Berkshire on Wednesday May 22 commencing at 2 pm. Should anyone wish to come along and spectate you would be most welcome. In fact, you are more than welcome to visit the club on any of our match days.

If you wish to join as a social or bowling member then either call in at the bar from 7 pm weekdays or contact the secretary, Therese Clear, on 07759 158859.

Some social events in May for your calendar are:

- 18th Bingo, eyes down at 8 pm**
- 25th Neil Diamond Music Night 7.30 for 8 pm**
- 26th Open Day 10 am to 4 pm**

I hope to see you in the club house at one of our events.



The Hair Loss Clinic
 North Hall Road, Ugley
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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.

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We all had a wonderful evening for our March Workshop. We had invited the Scouts to join us and they all enjoyed making a spring flower posy in a bag.

One of our ladies showed us what happens when you put different food colourings into a flower vase full of daffodils, tulips and hyacinths as the flowers drink up the water their petals turn to different shades of colour.



The scouts were very interested in this especially as the yellow petals on the daffodils in blue food coloured water turned green.

After the Scouts had left, we were then shown how to manipulate an aspidistra leaf to make a holder for our flowers - see the photograph of an aspidistra leaf with pink rose and gypsophila.

Our May Flower Club meeting will be on May 22 with a DIY night with demonstrations by some of our talented members. Please come along and see how they put together an

arrangement, which you can then try at home.

We meet on the third Wednesday of the month (except January, August and December) at 7.30pm at Ugley Village Hall, Cambridge Road, CM22 6HR. Visitors are always very welcome.



Individual place arrangements



Aspidistra leaf with pink rose



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Whether birds evolved flight to descend from the trees or to rise from the ground will be the first question to be tackled at the Saturday Seminar on 11 May. Mike Howgate MSc FLS will discuss two controversies on the evolution of flight, “How Birds Fly” and “The Dinosaur Bird Link”. Sometimes known as “Dr Dinosaur”, Mike is the General Secretary and Chair of the Amateur Geological Society of North London and is a member of the Linnean Society of London. In the first part of the seminar he will look at the evolution of flight and he will then move on to discuss the prevalent theory amongst paleontologists that birds arose from a group of Theropod dinosaurs.

At the General Meeting on 16 May we look forward to enjoying a performance from singer, songwriter and musician, Saffron Summerfield. Saffron’s career has taken her from live performance on TV and on John Peel’s radio show to tours abroad and playing blues guitar alongside black musicians in the Mississippi cotton fields. Her performance entitled “Milton Keynes to Mississippi” will feature different styles of guitar from the classical to the blues.

In March, Ed Fairey, Essex County Organiser for the National Garden Scheme (NGS), entertained the Garden Group with the history of the NGS. He described how it came into being, why it has always supported nursing charities, and how in 1928, its foundation year, it raised over £8,000 for the Queen’s Nursing Institute (QNI). Since 1980, when it became independent of the QNI, it has benefitted a wider range of health charities, including Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, The Carers’ Trust and Parkinson’s UK. In May, the Garden Group will continue its own support of the NGS with a visit to “The Mount” in Roydon, which opens to visitors under the scheme.

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We hold the village fete every year in June. We want to ensure this fun tradition continues long into the future but we need YOUR help. The event is entirely volunteer run and, without support, it simply cannot go ahead. Don’t let our fete become a thing of the past, come and get involved.

We are an enthusiastic, friendly team and would warmly welcome new volunteers. There are all sorts of jobs to be done, and any help you can offer in the run up or on the day would be truly invaluable. You won’t be given any tasks that exceed your physical capability and it doesn’t matter if your time is limited; every little helps!

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THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

By Tricia Moxey, Trustee

 www.hundredparishes.org.uk



As day length increases and the air becomes warmer, plants put out new shoots. Many insects emerge and birds pair up, preparing to breed. Since the 1960s the average minimum winter temperatures



Bluebells at Littlebury

have been rising. Snow fall is now a rarity, and frosty days are much less frequent. The current growing season is almost a month longer than 50 years ago. Primroses and bluebells are opening earlier. Researchers recorded that the first flowering of some 406 plant species has advanced by almost a month since 1986! This has a knock-on effect for the time of emergence of pollinating insects such as bees and butterflies; some are adapting to the warmer climate.

Hedgerow shrubs and trees are leafing and flowering earlier too, providing food for so many hungry caterpillars which are ideal food for nestlings. Hedgerows are a valuable wildlife habitat, often providing a living framework to the landscape and our rural heritage. Long-established hedges grow in soil that is rich in stored carbon and older trees within the hedgerow also hold large stores of carbon.



Pleshey

A recent planning application to fell an ancient hedgerow oak close to Clavering led to a vigorous and successful campaign by residents to save it. This tree is now registered on the Ancient Tree Inventory, a record like the one for listed buildings. There are more trees in local hedgerows that could be recorded - details of how to do this can be found on <https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/how-to-record>.

National Hedgerow Week organised by the Tree Council runs from 6th May to 12th May and is timed to showcase hedgerows resplendent with fresh new growth and full of wildlife. Please enjoy one or more of the many walks listed on the Society's website - and consider recording some of our wonderful old trees.

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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The most important public consultation for a generation about the future impact of Stansted Airport is currently under way.

At stake is the prospect of the Government removing all of its current statutory restrictions on night flights at Stansted, which have been in force for over 40 years. Manchester Airports Group (MAG) is pressing hard for the removal of the current Government restrictions, which currently allow a maximum of 13,700 Stansted night flights a year.

This is despite the fact that MAG is subject to a planning agreement with Uttlesford District Council (UDC), signed in May 2003, whereby Stansted Airport is subject to the following obligation:

“From the date of this agreement not to seek any relaxation of the night flight restrictions currently in force for the night period of 23.00 – 06.59 or for the night quota period of 23.30 – 05.59.”

SAW Noise Advisor, Martin Peachey, commented: “If MAG is successful there could be no limit on the number of night flights at Stansted and this would adversely impact the health of local residents especially vulnerable groups. Aircraft are inherently noisy machines and particularly so compared with the low ambient noise levels at night in the countryside surrounding the airport. It is vital for local residents, local councils and other local organisations to reply to this consultation and make it clear to the Government that we want fewer night flights, not more!”

Responding to the consultation

The link to the consultation document is <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/night-flight-restrictions-heathrow-gatwick-and-stansted-airports-from-october-2025>. You can respond online but an email response allows more flexibility to make your own points, rather than just responding to the pre-set questions. The email address is night.flights@dft.gov.uk.

The consultation proposes extending the current restrictions – i.e. maintaining the status quo – at Heathrow and Gatwick until (at least) October 2028. However, for Stansted, the Government is seeking views on three different options:

Option 1 – Removing Government controls on the number of Stansted night flights and the permitted aggregate night noise level in October 2026.

Option 2 – Removing Government controls on the number of Stansted night flights in October 2025, whilst maintaining the controls on the permitted aggregate night noise level.

Continued overleaf



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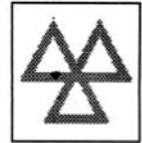
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Option 3 – Government night controls to remain (as per Heathrow and Gatwick).

Options 1 and 2 reflect lobbying activity by MAG. Both these options would mean fewer restrictions and, inevitably, more Stansted night flights. Option 3 is clearly preferable and it is important that local residents make their views known to the DfT.

Other points you could make

Phase out night flights altogether – Stansted is currently allowed 13,700 night flights a year between the hours of 11.30pm and 6.00am. By comparison, Heathrow, which is three times bigger than Stansted, is allowed just 5,800 night flights a year. Night flights are particularly intrusive in a largely rural area, with low background night noise levels. The aim should be to phase out all Stansted night flights, except emergencies, by 2030.

'Night' should mean 'night' – The limit on the number of night flights should apply for the full 8-hour night period (11.00pm to 7.00am) and not just for the 6½ hours (11.30pm to 6.00am) – when the limit on the number of night flights currently applies.

Dispense with Dispensations – Airport management can grant 'dispensations' where flights are delayed by weather or Air Traffic Control problems. Dispensations do not count against the night flights limit. Stansted granted 1,200 dispensations last summer whereas Heathrow granted only 462. The DfT should remove the right of airports to grant dispensations, i.e. airport management should not be allowed to mark their own homework.

Ban Reverse Thrust – The use of reverse thrust at night should be banned except in the case of an emergency. The Stansted runway is one of the longest in the UK and so the additional braking effect provided by using reverse thrust upon landing is unnecessary other than in exceptional circumstances.

Health Impacts – The Government recognises that aircraft noise at night has negative impacts upon local communities around airports and can impact on physical and mental well-being. These negative impacts are far greater than any economic benefits.

Night flights are the biggest single cause of noise complaints by local residents. This consultation is an opportunity to make your voice heard. The closing date is 22 May 2024. As a reminder, the email address for replying to the consultation is night.flights@dft.gov.uk.

SAW Chairman, Brian Ross, concluded: "MAG is putting profit before people in pressing for more Stansted night flights and, in so doing, is shamefully breaking its planning agreement with UDC. However, if enough local residents and local councils respond to this consultation, making clear that we don't want more Stansted night flights, we can convince the Government not to bow to MAG's pressure."

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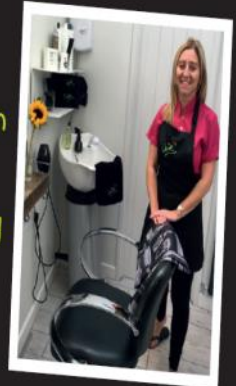
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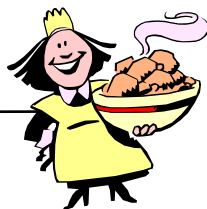
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COOKERY CORNER

By Sue Johnson 🍷 812704



This is a really tasty, nutritious and healthy one-pan meal. It is also gluten-free. The ingredients can be halved to make a meal for two.

SMOKED HADDOCK ROSTI (serves 4)

1 lb (450g) potatoes, peeled and coarsely grated
1 large onion, peeled and coarsely grated
2-3 garlic cloves, peeled and crushed
1 lb (450g) smoked haddock
1 tablespoon olive oil
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
Finely grated rind of ½ lemon
1 tablespoon freshly chopped parsley
2 tablespoons crème fraiche, to serve
Mixed salad leaves, to garnish
Lemon wedges, to serve

Dry the grated potatoes in a clean tea towel. Rinse the grated onion thoroughly in cold water, dry in a clean tea towel and add to the potatoes.

Stir the garlic into the potato mixture. Skin the smoked haddock and remove as many of the tiny bones as possible. Cut into slices and reserve.

Heat the oil in a large non-stick frying pan. Add half the potatoes and press well down in the frying pan. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Add a layer of fish and a sprinkling of lemon rind, parsley and a little black pepper.

Top with the remaining potatoes and press down firmly. Cover with a sheet of tinfoil and cook on the lowest heat for 25-30 minutes.

Pre-heat the grill 2-3 minutes before the end of cooking time. Remove the tinfoil and place the rosti under the grill to brown. Turn out on to a warmed serving dish, and serve immediately with spoonfuls of crème fraiche, lemon wedges and mixed salad leaves.

HANDY HINTS: Do remember to dry off the grated potatoes and onion. It is amazing just how much water comes out. You can use strong kitchen towels instead of a tea towel if you prefer.



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'For Geeta, life as a widow is more peaceful than life as a wife... until other women in her village decide they want to be widows, too.

Geeta is believed to have killed her vanished husband - a rumour she hasn't bothered trying to correct, because a reputation like that can keep a single woman safe in rural India. But when she's approached for help in ridding another wife of her abusive drunk of a husband, her reluctant agreement sets in motion a chain of events that will change the lives of all the women in the village....' So says the blurb on the back of the book.

- **“Shroff's debut is a darkly funny revenge drama rooted in the reality of rural India.”** *The Guardian*

This was the choice of the book group last month. It was very well-liked.

Geeta's husband, Ramesh, disappeared five years ago. Gossip has it that Geeta did away with him so she is feared and treated as a pariah in society. Embracing her pariah-like status, Geeta finds inspiration in Phoolan Devi, known as the Bandit Queen, who overcame her low-caste origins and the most dreadful abuse to seek revenge for what she suffered and to champion the downtrodden.

The tale is set where many women are treated as the property of the men they marry, their job to make babies, cook, clean and are often treated like servants to be beaten. Women struggle against domestic violence and often caste discrimination, however, the women in this story are not depicted as saints; they are judgemental, bitchy and cliquy, but also human and often very funny.

The complexity of female friendships is fundamental as is the sisterhood that bonds them, strengthened by being part of a loan group. If women want to earn money by sewing or jewellery-making, they need a loan to finance it. They meet weekly to make loan repayments from their earnings. When Farah defaults on her contribution, Geeta makes up the shortfall and so Farah approaches Geeta for help in getting rid of her husband, who is drinking her money away. How Geeta and Farah go about this will have an impact of other women in the loan group. One by one they are drawn in. Geeta manages to reconnect with Saloni, who was her closest friend but Geeta's marriage destroyed their relationship. Geeta begins to understand what happened to her and her parents and realises that rage and anger of a bandit queen is not her life but revenge is still possible.

This is a dark tale with a lot of humour and poignant moments. The characters are fully formed, the dialogue is smart and witty. You learn a lot about Indian culture and attitudes to different religions. However, the reality of discrimination, division, poverty, hardship and the caste system is never too far away.

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 8th 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 8th 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 8th 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.

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Previous issues of Elsenham News are available on the ECA Website

www.ElsenhamsCommunityAssociation.org.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS

Photographs of old Elsenham 1 and 2 June, St Mary's Church

Charity Quiz 8 June Bowls and Social Club

History Society 12 June 8pm Memorial Hall

Village Fete 22 June Playing Field

VILLAGE CONTACTS

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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	
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History Society	Mike Rea evhs12@hotmail.co.uk	813634
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Womens Institute Secretary	Gill Hathaway	813385
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