

Elsenham News



elsenhamnews@hotmail.co.uk

November 2024
75p where sold

Elsenham Village Regular Monthly or Quarterly Activities

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

November 2024 diary

Mon 4	Parish Council Meeting	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Tues 5	Henham & District Garden Soc.	Memorial Hall 2 for 2.30pm
Tues 5 & 19	Elsenham Community Choir	Village Hall 7pm
Fri 8 & 22	Church Lunch Club	Memorial Hall 12.30pm
Sat 9	Act of Remembrance	Memorial Garden 10.45am
Sat 9 & 23	Bingo	Bowls & Social Club 7 for 7.30pm
Mon 11	Act of Remembrance	Memorial Garden 10.45am
Mon 11	Natter Night	The Crown 7.30pm
Tues 12 & 26	Life Drawing	Village Hall 7.30pm
Weds 13	History Society Meeting	Memorial Hall 7.45 for 8pm
Thurs 14	ECA Meeting	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Sat 16	Beetle Drive	Memorial Hall 6.30pm
Sat 16	Tennis Club Quiz	Bowls & Social Club 7.30pm
Thurs 21	WI	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Sat 23	Elsenham Christmas Market	Golf World, Stansted 2 - 6pm
Sun 24	Christmas tree erecting	Ambrose Corner 11.30am
Mon 25	Elsenham Eagles	The Crown 7.30pm
Thurs 28	Gong Baths	Memorial Hall 7.30pm
Sat 30	Elsenham Farmers Market	Village Hall 12.30 - 2.30pm



Mobile Library
Every third Thursday stopping at Glebe End

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	Pilates	Elsenham Village Hall
	7.30-8.30pm	Shape to the beat	Memorial Hall (not 1st Monday)
Tuesday	9.30-10.15am	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	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)
	12.30-4.30pm	Coffee Bar at the park	Playing Field Car Park
Saturday	8.15am-1pm	Tarte au Citroen	Playing Field
	9-11am	Dance Scene	Memorial Hall
	9am-12pm	Youth boys & girls 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)

BEETLE DRIVE

In aid of the Elsenham St. Mary's Fabric Fund

Date: Saturday 16 Nov 2024

Time: 6:30 pm

Place: Elsenham Memorial Hall, CM22 6LP

Bookings: £5 per ticket or £12 per family

Contact: Elizabeth Barker
813543
eab1707@yahoo.co.uk

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THE NEWS REPORT

From The Editors



Although winter looms large and the dread of cold weather rears its ugly head, there is plenty of things for us to look forward to. Among them is a fantastic firework night at Stansted Golf World (see back page). If you feel like flexing your muscles for warmth, how about helping to erect the village Christmas tree (see page 19)? If you prefer a traditional carol evening then please see page 39.

If sitting in front of a roaring fire and having a good read is your preferred option, then there is plenty inside this month's issue for you. Our band of regulars are all here and you really should keep abreast of developments that will have a day-to-day impact on you - see Development Developments (page 9). It's a pity that our District Councillors have not been able to provide us with any updates on activities again.

The Bowls Club (page 41) and Tennis Club (page 43) are both hosting events to keep you occupied and we are sure they will have many more to come in the next few months.

As mentioned above, the village Christmas tree will soon be up in all its glory. The date for putting it up is November 24 and we would urge any of you that feel you could help to please step up and provide some muscle. Thank you to Ann for once again providing this focal point. It is much appreciated by so many.

Let us not forget the sacrifice made by others for us. This year's remembrance service will be on Saturday November 9, starting at 10.45 am prompt. Refreshments will be available after the service in the Memorial Hall. Please do attend and show your respect for those that have made the ultimate sacrifice. There will be a further service on Monday 11 at 10.45am.

Enjoy your November!

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ELSENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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



Responses to Uttlesford District Council's Local Plan had to be submitted by 17 October.

Elsenham Parish Council have objected to Local Plan due to the District Council adding another 110 new dwellings, close to the Elsenham Parish boundary. It was stated explicitly in Regulation 18 that there would be no more allocations to Elsenham because the village had already received over 1,500 new houses. Yet in Regulation 19 a proposal was added for a further 110 dwellings.

The planning application UTT/23/2028/DFO, for the erection of 40 dwellings on Land South of Rush Lane, Elsenham, has been withdrawn. However, this is not all good news. The land has been sold to Matthew Homes, who said they will be submitting their own planning application shortly.

Please try and be considerate to other residents and remember to cut back your hedges if they are encroaching on public footpaths. All pavements should be wide enough for wheelchairs and buggies to use. No one should have to step on to the road because of overgrown hedges or branches of trees that are hanging too low.

Our County Councillor has reported Robin Hood Road to Highways. There is a lot of overgrown vegetation plus silt has travelled down the road and has become a great growing agent for the weeds.

The saga of the connection of the streetlight outside Elsenham Surgery continues. UK Power Network has now given our case to another service operator, who have agreed that Elsenham Parish Council has not received a good service. The connection will be carried out as soon as possible.

The lights on Grove Hill are causing longer waiting times for vehicles. This is because the sensors cannot detect oncoming traffic due to overhanging trees in the residents' gardens obscuring them. Some of the residents living on Grove Hill have refused to allow Highways to cut back their trees. Our County Councillor will revisit this issue.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 4 November, starting at 7.45pm in the Memorial Hall. All meetings are open to members of the public and all are welcome

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DEVELOPMENT DEVELOPMENTS

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



In the August edition, I reported that the application for 40 homes to the south of Rush Lane was likely to be considered by Uttlesford District Council's Planning Committee on July 24. But that did not happen, possibly on account of a thoroughly uncomplimentary report by the Urban Design Officer ('a homogeneous development lacking character and identity', and so on). Now comes news that the application has been withdrawn. However, any temptation to rejoice would be premature. The site has been flogged on, from Phillips Planning to Matthew Homes, who are expected to make their own application some time soon. In any event, an application for the same site with access off Robin Hood Road was given outline planning approval in February 2024, and a detailed application could be submitted. Someone somewhere must know what it all means, but they're not saying.

Representations regarding UDC's Regulation 19 Local Plan consultation have now closed. I noted a couple of months ago the proposals for another 110 homes on the Bloor site. I lacked space then to mention an extraordinary suggestion that High Lane in Stansted should be closed to through traffic, in order to promote an 'active travel route', encouraging walking and cycling, from two new housing developments on the northern side of Stansted. One is for 270 dwellings to the north of the 'Walpole Meadows' development completed recently, and the other for 55 to the east of High Lane at its northern end.

It's said that detailed discussions will be needed with Highways before a closure scheme could be agreed. Not much discussion is needed before it's realised that the idea is a non-starter, for several reasons. Some means would be needed to allow through the large number of local residents; heavy vehicles faced by the weight restriction up Grove Hill would have no escape route; the difficult stretch along Lower Street from Grove Hill to Stansted Station would still need to be negotiated. No-one has thought properly about this wild idea. It has been bunged in as an 'improvement' in order to make development appear more acceptable in planning terms. UDC fiddle-faffed about after the previous Local Plan was thrown out, and are now desperate to get this attempt approved somehow before the Government changes the rules of the game and they have to start all over again.

High Lane was closed recently, which gave a taster as to what permanent closure might be like. Also closed was the road over Elsenham level crossing, in order to construct the junction with the cycleway and footway from the Bloor development to the station. The commitment is that it should be available before 80 homes are occupied, and they are not far off that number now. Remarkably, however, the new residents have been told that the much-needed amenity will not be opened until the end of 2026, having bought on the understanding that it would be accessible earlier. Bloor have been asked to make clear their intentions, so far without reply.

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ELSENHAM VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

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



The Mystery of the Missing Windmill

The saga of the search for the Elsenham windmill continues. Last time you will remember we said that we had found the mill on the 1777 Chapman and Andre map. Further examination has shown that the mill depicted on that map was more likely the water mill that we knew existed by Mill House at Fullers End. However, on the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map dated 1876 a windmill on Stansted Road is clearly shown and annotated as such. It does not appear on the 1897 OS map that would support the theory that it was demolished toward the end of the nineteenth century. A search of the records at Chelmsford revealed that the mill was probably called Wisbey's Mill and not Elsenham Mill and due to the boundary situation at that time it was located in the parish of Stansted.

The water mill at Mill House is not annotated as such on the 1897 OS 1/2500 map and appears to have ceased to function as a water mill with the coming of the railway in the mid nineteenth century and the resulting diversion of Stansted Brook to the North of Mill house. There is arguably evidence on the 1897 map of the route of the Brook prior to its diversion but today there is nothing remaining of the mill. Finally, just to complicate things even more, further evidence has been found at the Records Office of a windmill at Fullers End just east of footpath 12. It appears to have existed only in the nineteenth century and does not exist on any map that we have seen. The plot doth thicken!

My thanks to Dave Verlander for the information in these notes.

As mentioned previously, this line of research was started by a chance conversation and just shows you never know where the next historical nugget may be found.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday November 13 at 8pm in the Memorial Hall. Our speaker will be Alan Taylor, from the team that produced "For The Duration". This was published in 2014 to mark the centenary of the start of The Great War and tells the story of all those from the village who lost their lives in service to their country and are commemorated on our war memorial.

Alan's talk will be entitled "Harry Seabrook—Tale Of A Sherwood Forester". Although geographically some way from Elsenham it is linked to "For The Duration" in relation to the method of research but is something new for our audience. As well as looking at a trench map, there will also be some hands-on audience participation that will make for an interesting and informative evening.

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings for a very modest two pounds but even better, membership costs just five pounds for a full years meetings. Bargain!



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Daisy May's Farm

Hall Road, Elsenham, CM22 6DN

Well, what a fantastic year this has been for us and the best bit has been having all our lovely visitors come and see us on the farm.

We are starting to get very excited about Christmas and really hope you will be joining us for the festivities this year. There will be so much to do. As it is such a busy time for Mrs Claus, we are giving her the festive season off this year but, fear not, the **Santa Sleigh Train** will be in action driven by **Santa and his helpers**, so do NOT miss this.

Make sure you keep an eye on our Facebook page, so you are up to date with all our plans and activities and don't miss out on all the fun.

All our animals are always so happy to see you and we still have some small piglets that are so cute, but very cheeky! At the moment there are sheep, goats, ponies, all sorts of chickens, ducks, turkeys, pheasants and don't forget our rhea (similar to an ostrich), rabbits and guinea pigs and they **all** love to see our visitors.

These events are a vital lifeline for us to raise enough funds to feed and look after our animals throughout the winter and we can only do this with your help and support.



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 8 www.daisymaysfarm.org to find out more. Thank you so much.



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ELSENHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

By Moyra Jackson ☎ 647351



Winter and all it brings – dark nights, comfort food, making your Christmas cake maybe, woolly jumpers . . . and countless lists!

Following the Act of Remembrance that takes place in the Memorial Garden, opposite Ambrose Corner, on Saturday November 9 at 10.45am, the WI will be providing refreshments in the Memorial Hall. There will be hot drinks and squash plus sausage rolls and lots of cake. Everyone is welcome to come along and we look forward to seeing you there.

We are busy getting ready for our pop-up Christmas Shop in the Post Office. Karen and her team have been amazing all year letting us display crafts we have made and she has once again offered us space for the run-up to the festive season. Watch out for some very creative ideas coming your way soon.



We have almost 60 members; some have been members for many, many years and others are fairly new to our WI. We had a 'Speed Dating' type of situation for our last meeting where everyone had two minutes to chat to someone and then moved on to someone else. It might sound awful but it worked and many new friendships were created. Our members loved it. We then had a round of 'Tell us something no-one would know about you'. I could tell you some of the revelations, but I won't! Definitely for members only!

Our next meeting is a pre-Christmas treat. We will have Karen Geoghegan, former owner of 'Angel Wings' in Dunmow, who will be putting on a fashion show for us with our very own super-models. 'LJ Makes' will be there with a variety of baskets and items made from rope, as will Anne-Marie with some beautiful handmade items from her NUMI range of gifts. There will be plenty of opportunities to do some Christmas shopping. The competition is something beginning with 'F'.

Coming along to Elsenham WI is a really good way to make friends, especially if you are new to Elsenham. We have a very proud history based on the 'Jam and Jerusalem' traditions of our formation in 1921 and are delighted that we have continued to grow into the WI we are today. We are always happy to dispel any of the stereotypes associated with the WI. Why not come along (or come back)? Visitors and new members are always welcome and you can join at any time throughout the year.

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

Elsenham WI – There's a lot going on!



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ELSENHAM EAGLES

Elsenham Action Group for Local Environmental Sustainability

✉ elsenhham.action@btinternet.com



Think about the last long summer car journey you took, blasting along the motorway, weaving your way round winding country lanes, and stopping at your destination for a well-deserved beverage. Look through your mind's eye at your car windscreen; was it pretty much in the same state as when your journey began? Was it covered in bug bodies that had stood in the way of you and your pint? We suspect it was the former.

Action starts close to home. "To stop the deterioration of our natural world in its tracks, we need to think globally whilst acting locally. We need to create a wilder Essex. One where wildlife is thriving, every person has access to nature and our habitats are all connected. Essex should be a safe haven for wildlife and an example to which other counties can aspire." This is an extract from Essex Wildlife Trust website, from the section titled – "Think Globally Act Locally."

www.essexwt.org.uk/what-we-do/our-vision

"Long grass, peppered with flowers, is one of the rarest habitats in our neat gardens, yet it is incredibly beneficial for wildlife. Patches of long grass encourage different plant species to grow, help insects to thrive and create feeding opportunities for birds and small mammals." Source: Essex Wildlife Trust.

Some people may think that there is plenty of good wildlife habitat in the countryside around us, and to some extent this is true. Field boundaries and hedgerows can be a rich habitat for wildlife. However, fields managed for agriculture are subject to ploughing and the use of chemicals and are therefore seriously depleted as wildlife habitats. In addition, so much habitat has been taken away for housing that it is important that we try to restore as much as we can. There is also very little managed grassland, especially in our region. So, it is the type of habitat that we can create on Elsenham green spaces that is important. It is not a case of neglecting the areas chosen but of managing them. Margins need to be cut to keep them tidy and pathways need to be kept cut through larger areas.

Ecological surveys can be carried out both before and after a period of reduced mowing so that we have scientific evidence of the effectiveness of managing grassed areas for wildlife.

We care about wildlife, our village, and people. We are part of the natural world, not separate from it. For our own sakes, as well as for the sake of our children and grandchildren, we need to increase the number of pollinators because so much of our own food supply depends on them. This need to protect and nurture wildlife is new and transitions can be difficult. We recognise that, whilst the above is our view, there will be others. We believe that everyone needs to feel heard, whatever their view. Therefore, we encourage everyone's views on this subject.

If you would like to share your view, please get in touch with us (email above) or come to our meetings (third Thursday of each month) at The Crown at 7.30pm.

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Village Tree Appeal

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2 Ambrose Corner, Elsenham

VIPs are needed for November 24 - 11.30am

On this day the Options Hair Design Christmas will be erected on the green in front of the salon. We need some VIPs (Very Important People of Elsenham) who can lend a very strong hand to help decorate the tree and get it in place.

This year, same as last year, Father Christmas will be visiting us and giving gifts to children. We are so lucky to also have the Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (based in Stansted) who are coming along with their Fire Engine to lend a hand. Always exciting for young and old! Plus Mince Pies, Coffee, Hot Chocolate and lots of delicious treats.

Every year we ask the children of the village to make an ornament for the tree. This year ornaments will be available to collect from Options Hair Design and the Post Office prior to the tree being put up so make sure you pop in and grab one for your little one to decorate.

A very Christmassy village affair for the benefit of everyone in Elsenham, come along and join in to get the festive season started – Ho Ho Ho!!

Thank you for your support as always.

Ann



ELSENHAM COMMUNITY CHOIR

Did you know that singing can help with self-esteem, build self-confidence, support social skill development, promote social inclusion, engage the emotions and most importantly, enable people of all ages to come together to meaningfully create something wonderful?



So why don't you try doing something wonderful? Come and join us the first and third Tuesday of every month at 7.00pm until 8.30pm in Elsenham Village Hall.

There are no auditions at our choir, just come along, sing and enjoy yourself! Everyone is welcome.

Please just turn up or find us on our Elsenham Community Choir Facebook page or call ☎ 07962 586825.

November 2024

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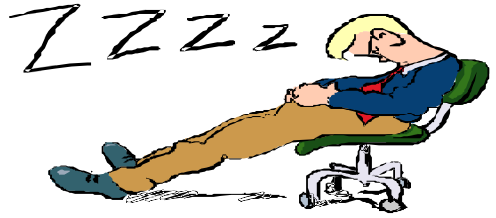
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Elsenham's Woods

In addition to **Alsa Wood**, locally we find **Eastend Wood** and **Pledgdon Wood**. These Elsenham Woods are predominantly ancient mixed woods supporting the wet ash-maple, oak hornbeam and wych elm. They are both situated on the chalky boulder clay of north-west Essex, less than half a mile apart. Both woods support a diverse assemblage of species, including the nationally uncommon *Oxlip Primula elatior*.

Eastend Wood is complex in structure with a mosaic of woodland types. Standard trees include pedunculate oak, ash and some hornbeams. Aspen and birch occur throughout, often forming pure stands, mostly as invasive species following coppicing. Within Eastend Wood there are two areas of secondary woodland, known as Elsenham Field and Ald Ley, which are dominated by oak with some ash which are an integral part of the site.

Pledgdon Wood contains one of only two known Essex locations for wych elm *Ulmus glabra* coppice. The coppice layer in both woods include, ash, hazel with frequent field maple. Other shrubs include hawthorn, elder and wild privet. The ground flora consists of locally dominant bramble, tufted hair-grass, pendulous sedge, santicle and dog's mercury with frequent oxlip and occasional bracken. Other woodland plants of interest include herb-Paris and Bugle. Wet areas recently coppiced are dominated by pendulous sedge, great willowherb, meadowsweet and bramble with frequent wild angelica, marsh thistle, ragged robin and teasel.

The sites also include a number of damp grassy rides and small woodland ponds which form valuable additional habitat for invertebrates and birds.

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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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A HUGE THANK YOU

To everyone who supported our village Macmillan Coffee Morning, **thank you SO much**. It was lovely to see so many of you and, even though the weather was hideous, it didn't stop us having a brilliant morning.

It really is a great way of raising money: drinking tea and coffee, eating the MOST delicious homemade cakes, playing fun games and chatting with friends old and new; what more could you want?

As usual, we had an amazing team that pulled the whole event together. Thank you to you all, you know who you are.

Of course, we mustn't forget to thank the bowls club, who kindly allow us to hold our event in their super club house each year. We also must thank everyone who made a scrumptious cake, donated a super raffle prize or gave us a generous financial donation. It is thanks to **everyone** involved that we **raised over £1,900** this year, which is incredible for two hours!

This is a MASSIVE amount of money and it really will help some of those affected by cancer, so give yourselves a rather large pat on the back!

You might not yet have your calendar for next year, but as soon as you do, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE put in the date for next year's coffee morning:

FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2025

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If you are worried about paying your bills and keeping warm as the weather turns colder, there is a team of friendly energy specialists at Uttlesford Citizens Advice who can help in a number of ways:

Winter Fuel Payment: Changes to eligibility for Winter Fuel Payment this year highlights the importance of making sure you are claiming all the benefits you are entitled to. Our energy team can carry out a full benefits check on your behalf and help you with applications if need be. If you have internet access you can quickly and easily check your eligibility for support using a benefit calculator like the one on the Uttlesford District Council website: <https://uttlesford.entitledto.co.uk/home/start>

Home improvement grants and handyman services: We can help you access a range of grants, loans and practical assistance that are designed to help homeowners in receipt of income-related benefits carry out essential repairs and improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

Fuel vouchers and emergency funds: If you cannot pay your energy and water bills, food or afford essential items - for example, clothes or an oven or need help with health costs, school costs or essential travel if you're looking for work, there is other support available. Please contact us for more information.

We can also help with:

- Access to food banks and children's clothes banks
- Money and debt advice, including debts to utility providers, (in some cases we can apply to trusts and foundations to help pay these off)
- Priority services register
- 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** - just call or email us, or drop in to Dunmow, Thaxted or Stansted Library or Takeley Old Schoolhouse to use our simple video link. Advice is always completely free and confidential.

Heating Oil

Over a quarter of homes in Uttlesford use Oil or LPG to heat their homes. If you have been getting your heating oil from the same supplier for some time it is worth doing a price comparison to ensure you are getting the best price. You can do this on one of the many price comparison websites, such as www.oil-club.co.uk, www.boilerjuice.com/ or www.fueltool.co.uk/ or give us call if you need some help.

Joining your local heating oil club is another great way of finding savings. Speak to your Parish Council or neighbourhood group. **Always make sure you ring round a few suppliers** to compare prices before placing an order and don't be afraid to haggle!

Uttlesford Citizens Advice
Barnards Yard, Saffron Walden, CB11 4EB

ST MARY'S CHURCH ELSENHAM
Office@heuchurch.co.uk
Thought For The Month by *Louis Wilson*

As we approach Remembrance Sunday, I'm reminded of an old wooden hymn board that used to hang in my church. It was never used and very inconspicuous. But on this old board, there was a brass plate with these words faintly inscribed:

"This board was made by Frederick William Barrow in the year 1913, the 13th year of his age. He perished on board the SS Sea Serpent which was mined off Folkestone on the 23 March 1916. He was for 8 years a member of this church choir and for some time acted as server and assistant secretary to the Sunday School. His years were few. But full of good works."

Just 16 when he died. But for the First World War, he would surely have lived for many more years. However, the inscription goes on. At the end of the brass plate there are some words from the Bible:

"The lad is not here. Let the lad go up."

The reference is in Roman numerals but with a little homework, it becomes clear that the words are from Genesis chapter 44. They are in fact words from one of the greatest stories in the Bible.

They speak of a boy called Benjamin, just a young "lad" like Frederick Barrow, and who is facing danger of imminent death. But in that moment of extreme peril, his brother Judah stands and pleads for him.

Judah says: If my father sees that "the lad is not here," that the lad is no more, it will be the end for my father. "Therefore

let the lad go up." In other words, let me take his place, says Judah. I will lay down my life for Benjamin.

In a moment, Judah has been transformed. Until now, he has been a miserable and self-serving character. But now he selflessly goes into battle for his brother, and in so doing, points us forward to someone else who went into battle for you and me: Jesus Christ.

John 15: 13 says - Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

That is what Judah offered for Benjamin. That is what Jesus did for you and me.

I find the words on that old wooden hymn board very striking: For all Frederick Barrow's good works, for all his service to the church, I think the writers of that brass plate knew that he and all of us are facing an enemy that we cannot do anything about: death and separation from the God who made us.

What we need is a friend who is brave enough and powerful enough to do something about it. And that is who Jesus is.

I am so grateful for the sacrifice of men like Frederick Barrow who laid down his life for us. But I am grateful too for the reminder on that brass plate that at the hour of my greatest need, Jesus stood for sinners like me and said: Let the lad go. I will take his place.

CHURCH EVENTS IN OUR VILLAGES OCTOBER 2024

Church Services

Sunday 3rd November

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

18:00 Sunday@6, HUSCH*, Henham

Sunday 10th November

Remembrance Services:

08:45 Prayer Book Moring Prayer,
Elsenham Church

10:15 Morning Service, Ugley Church

10:15 Morning Service
Elsenham Village Hall

10:45 Act of Remembrance,
Henham War Memorial

18:00 Sunday@6 HC HUSCH Henham

Sunday 17th November

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 24th November

08:45 Prayer Book Communion,
Elsenham Church

10:00 Morning Service, Ugley Church

10:15 Communion Service,
Elsenham Village Hall

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

* *HUSCH: Henham & Ugley School Hall*

Acts of Remembrance

Saturday 9th November, 10:45am

**Act of Remembrance, Elsenham
Memorial Garden** followed by
refreshments at Memorial Hall

Sunday 10th November, 10:45am
Henham War Memorial followed by
refreshments at OSCA.

Monday 11th November, 10:45am
Elsenham Memorial Garden

Other Regular Events

SUNDAYS:

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

Starts at EVH then onto

Old Frank's, Elsenham, 10.15am

Sundays: 10th 17th & 24th

Pathfinders (Y6-Y9)

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

**Hall, Henham. Sundays: 10th, 17th &
24th**

Crammin' (Y10-Y13)

**HUSCH*, Henham 6.00pm - leave
from service to meet at OSCA,**

Henham. Sundays: 10th, 17th & 24th

MID-WEEK AND SATURDAY:

Start the Week with Prayer

Church Hall, Henham 9.30am

Mondays: 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th

Seekers After School Bible Club

(Y3-Y4) Old Frank's 3.20pm

Mondays: 11th, 18th & 25th

Christian Play (Y1-Y2)

Rowan House, Elsenham 3.15pm

Tuesdays: 12th, 19th & 26th

Little Fishes Pre-School Group

Church Hall, Henham 10.30am

Thursday: 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th

Little Fishes Pre-School Group

Elsenham Memorial Hall 10.00am

Fridays: 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th

Church Lunch Club

Elsenham Memorial Hall 12.30pm

Fridays: (2nd & 4th Friday of the month):
8th & 22nd

Afternoon Tea

OSCA, Henham 2.00pm

Saturday: 16th

For information on all these events,
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AID FOR ROMANIA

By Richard Peake ☎ 850374

Our winter lorry was dispatched at the end of October and we are now collecting for the April lorry where some of the goods will be given free to nearly 40 needy families in Mărășești (not far from the border with Ukraine), as nominated by the local Baptist church and the town mayor. The highest-quality goods will be sold through our charity shop in Romania, with proceeds helping the poorer sections of the population with their health, education and housing conditions.

We would now like:

- **SUMMER** clothes (shoes must be brand new under Romanian rules) for adults and **children** (clothes for children under 3 year old must be new).
- Single and Z beds with mattresses (sturdy iron or wooden framed beds are very desirable. No divans please).
- Cushions, bed sheets, pillows, duvets and blankets (single and double), towels
- Toiletries (including loo rolls)
- Umbrellas
- Rugs (no carpet offcuts)
- Bicycles for adults and children
- Building and workshop tools (also some types of gardening tools and sturdy wheelbarrows)
- Surplus school tables (must be 2 ft clearance underneath i.e. not infant) and stackable adult size chairs (please ask any contact with a local school or village hall who are/may be re-furbishing. I can arrange collection).
- Sturdy chests of drawers (not built from a flat pack as these do not survive the 5 day truck journey), bedside cabinets
- Kitchen/dining tables (either drop-leaf or with removable legs) and corner display units
- Irons and ironing boards as well as air driers for laundry.
- Kitchen items (crockery, cutlery, utensils, pots and pans especially in large sizes, such as preserving pans).
- Wheelchairs, crutches, walking sticks, Zimmer frames. Bandages and dressings (*but absolutely NO pills, medicines or creams please*). Incontinence pads.
- Rucksacks and holdalls (must be in good condition)
- Costume jewellery
- Footballs
- Ear defenders for the manual workers and high-viz vests/jackets.
- Small toys such as push-along cars, cuddly soft toys etc (no big toys, please, as these cause much jealousy!)
- Large plastic storage boxes with lids
- Surplus Christmas trees and decorations.

Cash donations for the cost of the lorry. It now costs more to send since we must now also clear customs in Rotterdam.

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



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NATURAL OUTLOOK ON NOVEMBER

By Heather Salvidge ☎ 814153



During November deciduous trees usually lose all their leaves. This year, as it is, some might hang on to them for a bit.

EROWOS, a sub-committee of the Parish Council must decide what sort of tree management is needed for The Spinney and The Triangle on the playing field, if any. At the October meeting decisions are taken as to what can be done by EROWOS members or what needs professional work, e.g. cutting the south side hedge in the Autumn. There may also be some coppicing or felling in some of the wooded plots – we'll see. Going back to the 1970s – well before the M11 came through – much of the hornbeam on the south side of Alsa Wood was re-coppiced. Now that the old, whole wood is in two parts, it no longer is.

The two wildflower areas on The Spinney have had a late summer cut and clear but may need another, either late October or early November. In about 1991 The Spinney was saved from development and as a grassed area was planted with very young trees by the ECC and about, say, twenty standards on the grass side edge. They got overtaken by the whips after about twenty years or so. The wildflower areas were agreed by the grass cutting committee of the Parish Council and decided by the late Peter Clear about 15 years ago. The Triangle in the playing field is a more recent EROWOS responsibility and includes a patch of winter heliotrope moved from the Leigh Way path, another patch was moved to the spinney beside a path which bisects two tree planted areas.

There are some more wildflower areas, either under development or consideration, in the village: on De Mandeville Green, on the entrances to Alsa Gardens and one on the side of Jenkins Drive and on Maytree Gardens. They will have mown edges adjacent to pavements. There is a long-standing patch of bee orchids in New Road by the rear entrance to Hunters Court, curated by a small gang of us keeping dogs away from them and hoping they don't get cut. The Spinney areas usually get some new plants after the last cut and some yellow rattle to subdue the grass on it – especially as it's grown to double its height this year.

The building of so many businesses and new houses in the village has made the countryside recede and has taken trees and some wildlife with it. For instance, I have not had in the garden for quite a while, in the front, reed buntings or bramblings and in the larger back, bullfinches, green woodpeckers, pied wagtails, a grey heron – partially our fault, we took the fish out of the pond – fieldfares and redwings in numbers, now just one or two sometimes.

Continued on page 33



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At the November General Meeting, Stansted u3a will welcome Ian Keable, a Gold Star member of the Magic Circle, as the guest speaker. His presentation, entitled "The Unparalleled Necromancer," will focus on Charles Dickens' lesser-known role as a performing conjuror. Between writing *A Christmas Carol* and *David Copperfield*, Dickens performed magic for seven years, describing himself as a "necromancer." Ian will not only reveal Dickens' tricks but also perform them live, offering insight into Dickens' talent for magic and how it influenced his literary works.

In other news, following a consultation with members, the proposal to move the monthly meetings from St John's Church Hall to St Theresa's Centre in Stansted has been approved. The move will be effective from December, with the Christmas Tea Party scheduled to be the first event in the new venue on December 5.

In late September, twenty-five u3a members travelled to the Suffolk coast for a day out in Southwold. Upon arrival, groups dispersed to explore the seaside town. Some headed to the pier arcade, while others took a walk along the promenade to the River Blyth. After a satisfying lunch of fish pies at the Harbour Inn, they strolled back through the marshes, spotting kestrels in flight. The trip was a success, and more outings are planned for next year with Richmond's Coaches.

Additionally, ten members of the Garden Group recently revisited the Cambridge University Botanic Gardens. Their first visit two years ago in summer had sparked curiosity about how the gardens would look in autumn. Following a peaceful lunch, they explored the grounds, discussing the benefits of forest bathing before seeking shelter from storm clouds in the glasshouses. The visit offered a refreshing contrast to their summer trip, and the group looks forward to future return visits.

Continued from page 31

We see overhead more red kites and buzzards that have spread across from the west, and kestrels. These latter used to perch on a neighbour's washing line in their back garden before Golds Nurseries became the Business Park. I remember, too, many swallows gathering on the telephone wires outside the house, getting ready to migrate. Now we rarely see one flying overhead in summer. Our stream which flows down towards the level crossing, under it and joins the Cam as that comes down from Little Henham, now often dries out, although very occasionally after three days downpours it floods, has lost its sticklebacks and nearly all the frogs – red leg disease I guess but it still has the water forget-me-nots, brooklime, celery-leaved buttercup and purple loosestrife and we wait and see if the newts return.



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The work parties have continued with the mowing of the meadow areas, although the frequent rain in late September and early October has played havoc with our schedule and delayed us moving on to the other reserves in Uttlesford such as Rushy Mead in Bishops Stortford. We have also been pollarding some willow trees that were starting to crowd over one end of the top pond creating too much shade. Going forward we will be doing further tree work on the banks of the two lower ponds both of which would benefit from some increased daylight.

Whilst working on the ponds we were pleased to note the presence of a grey wagtail. With its constantly bobbing tail and yellow under tail and belly it was a real delight to watch it hunting for insects around the pond margins. The grey wagtail was a red list species (birds that are at risk of extinction and require immediate action) until quite recently, but in a rare improvement of fortunes for our birds it has recently been moved to the amber list (birds of conservation concern but not critically endangered). This led me to enquire whether we had any breeding birds in the reserve that were now on the red list. The answer is yes, the mistle thrush. It seems that the decline in this species is not fully understood but I'm happy to report that our pair at Aubrey Buxton they seem to be doing ok. This year they raised two broods.

From The Parish Registers

Wedding:

On Saturday 14th September 2024 at Ugley Church, Elinor Katharine Strapp and Sam Patrick Malins.

Funeral:

A Service of Thanksgiving at Elsenham Church followed by a burial at Elsenham Cemetery on 15th October 2024, Pauline Isabel Green (nee Rattey) , aged 96 years, formerly of Redbond Lodge, Great Dunmow.

Burial of Ashes:

On Saturday 28th September 2024 at St Peter's Churchyard, Ugley, David Vernon Cross & Brenda Ethel Cross.

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.



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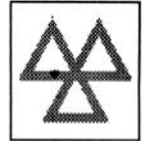
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THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

By Tricia Moxey, Trustee

🌐 www.hundredparishes.org.uk



One of the best ways to enjoy and appreciate our wonderful area is on foot, so the Hundred Parishes Society's website has always included a selection of walks.

They have generally been focused on footpaths but last winter's exceptional rain made many paths difficult. This prompted us to develop a new series of walking routes that do not use any footpaths.

We hope our "Quiet Lane Walks" will appeal to anyone who does not like cleaning boots, and also perhaps to families, people with mobility problems, or less-energetic cyclists. The new routes range in distance from one mile to twelve miles and pass through typical Hundred Parishes territory: lovely villages and attractive countryside, often with an inviting café or pub.



The Quiet Lane Walks start with Number 3, Great Waltham

Our website now has almost forty Quiet Lane Walks in addition to over one hundred established routes. You can

find a route that suits you by either scanning the lists of walks or by going to a specific parish introduction to see which route numbers go there.

We have put together quiet lane routes that visit forty-one of our hundred parishes, but we would welcome suggestions for more. Just email a simple route outline to hundredparishes@btinternet.com and we will put together a full route description.

Route descriptions can be freely downloaded from our website and then printed. The descriptions should ensure that nobody gets lost, and they include snippets of information about places along the way.

If you do not have access to the internet but would like some walk suggestions, please write to The Hundred Parishes Society, 2 Greenfields, Stansted Mountfitchet CM24 8AH. We will send you a list of available routes and then print some for you. There is no charge.



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ST MARY'S FABRIC FUND ELSENHAM

Registered Charity No 1052884

By Stewart Pimblett, Chairman ☎ 812359



I trust that you all had a good Summer despite the somewhat below average weather

conditions. I can't believe we are now approaching winter. Where does time go these days? To get you out of the house we have a Beetle Drive event planned for November 16th at the Memorial Hall. It will be a fun filled evening for all the family so do make every effort to come along. Full details are advertised elsewhere in this magazine. Elizabeth Barker currently holds the Cup, and she informs me that she will be desperately trying to retain it again this year.

The next event we are holding will be the Annual Christmas Tree Festival which will be at St. Mary's Church on the weekend of the 7th and 8th December. This is the Fabric Fund's main fund-raising event of the year and last year we had fifty-two trees exhibited by clubs, businesses and societies. It would be great if this year we can top that figure. It is a great way to advertise and showcase your business/club and inform people you are part of our community. Also, I am sure Jill Hill, and the committee could do with a hand preparing and running the event. So if you can help please get in touch.

Finally, as I write this report, we are waiting with bated breath for work to start on the new toilet and refreshment building at the church. We have just received a very generous donation from Friends of Essex Churches, so we are on our way.



THE CHRISTMAS CHOIR IS BACK!

The Christmas Choir is being formed again for our services of Carols by Candlelight. Join us to sing the traditional carols telling the story of the birth of the Christ Child:



DATES OF CAROL SERVICES:

Sunday 15th December, 7 pm at
St Mary's, Elsenham
Sunday 22nd December, 4 pm at
St Peter's, Ugley

DATES OF REHEARSALS:

Friday 22nd November, 7.30 pm at
Ugley church
Friday 29th November, 7.30 pm at
Elsenham church
Friday 6th December, 7.30 pm at
Ugley church
Friday 13th December, 7.30 pm at
Elsenham church
Friday 20th December at 7.30 pm at
Ugley church

Choir members old and new from any of our three parishes are most welcome. If you have any questions, contact Maxine Mott, ☎ 01279 812516 or

✉ motts@grahammott.plus.com

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ELSENHAM BOWLS AND SOCIAL CLUB

By Trevor Hackett



Our Presentation Dinner and Dance took place on 19 October. We had 37 members attend the dinner plus a few more just for the music night afterwards.

Invitations have gone out to all members to attend our Christmas Dinner and Dance on 14 December. There is a limit of 50 members for the dinner. After the meal, from 9 pm to midnight, we will be entertained by an Elton John tribute act.

Music acts already booked for next year include Elvis Presley tribute, Around Midnite (3-piece band), Piccadilly Swing (trio), the Caverners (duo), and Steve Brown. Other artists are yet to be confirmed.

Bingo nights will be on 9 and 23 November with eyes down at 7.30 pm.

Our two teams in the crib league continue to play on Tuesday evenings, with one of the teams usually playing at home.

The Darts Super League team will be playing at home on Mondays 11 and 25 November.

Short mat bowling in the club house started on Monday 7 October and will continue every Monday at 2 pm until April next year. You do not have to be a bowler to take part.

We had an enjoyable quiz night on 5 October with 5 tables playing.

The autumn renovation work on the green was undertaken by Turfcare on 1 October. Work on the green will continue daily throughout the winter months.

To discuss possible membership, contact the secretary Therese Clear on 07759 158859.

For details of the opening hours of the club, or to join as a Social or Bowling member, contact the Membership Secretary Brenda Kendrick on 01279 870412.

I hope to see you in the club house.

Mat Duxbury



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ELSENHAM TENNIS CLUB

By Petra Studholme ☎ 814667



Half-price membership until end of March 2025:

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Our playing year is April 1 2024 – March 31 2025. This means from October 1 2024 we offer half-price until the next season. We have some of the most reasonably priced subscriptions in the area anyway. All you do is to go online and choose the right package.

Half-price offer:

Adult: £40

Couple: £72.50 (living at same address)

Family: £77.50 (includes 2 adults and all children living at same address)

Senior: £25 (65 and over)

Student: £22.50 (must provide us with valid student card at time of sign-up)

Junior: £10 (under 18)

Non-playing: £5

We have 2 all weather courts, floodlights so you can play before or after work. We are situated right in the heart of the village, on the playing fields. You will get your own key to access the courts, can book online at your convenience and participate in our club events such as club nights, weekend or morning play sessions.

Coaching – individual and group sessions

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

stevesmith865@hotmail.com or call/text 07790 561817. Please note that Cardio is open to non-members. Cardio is a great way to get or stay fit. Our coach's choice of music is sometimes questionable, but everyone is definitely having fun and is getting a great workout.

Hiring our courts – open to non-members

Hire our courts to play with friends and family - £3 per adult, and 50p for under 18s. You can email us (mail@elsenhامتennisclub.co.uk) for availability, but please, if possible, give us 24hrs notice as we need to arrange to open the courts.

ETC Quiz – November 16, 7.30 for 8pm at the Bowls Club

We provide you with a ploughman's supper, raffle and there is a licensed bar.

Eight brains per table, £9 per brain (person). To book in your team, please email

Weekly schedule

(some open to non-members)

Tuesday evening – 6.30pm cardio tennis

(non-members welcome)

Tuesday evening – 7.30pm club night

Wednesday morning – 10am casual play

Thursday evening – 6.30pm cardio tennis
(non-members welcome)

Thursday evening – 7.30pm team practice
sessions

Friday morning – 10am casual play

Sunday afternoon – 2pm casual play



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

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

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

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

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

STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

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



A busy yet enjoyable season is now finished. The end of season groundwork is complete including substantial work on the wicket.

The club's '50th Anniversary of Cricket' at Stansted House culminated in a very successful day on June 30. This was attended by many club members and former members including Harry Judd, drummer of McFly and winner of Strictly Come Dancing. Sadly, former President Brian Thornton died a few days before the event. He was the owner of Stansted House who invited the club to play in his garden in 1974. However, two of his sons attended our special day.

On the pitch the 1st XI finished mid table in the Premier Division of the Herts & Essex Border League but unfortunately the 2nd XI was relegated from Division 2.

The 3rd XI finished towards the bottom of Division 3 but the youngsters that played in this team gained valuable experience of league cricket whilst enjoying themselves.

Winter nets will begin in January for all age groups.

It will be a busy winter for Ollie Patmore as he studies for his ECB Level 3 accreditation. Good luck Ollie.

The annual general knowledge quiz will take place in late January, but the committee will be busy getting organised for the 2025 season.

The club will be actively looking for new playing members of all ages, aged 5 (All Stars} upwards, for the coming season. We are very much a community club.

GARDEN HINT *By Sue Johnson*

Bring in begonias, cannas, dahlias and other tender plants once their foliage yellows. Store tubers in a frost-free shed, garage or greenhouse.



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COOKERY CORNER

By Sue Johnson 🍴 812704



CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Here are two ideas for colourful accompaniments for your Christmas roast. You can easily make them ahead of time and reheat just before serving.

STICKY RED CABBAGE (serves 6)

1oz (30g) butter
1 red onion, finely sliced
1 cinnamon stick
¼ teaspoon ground cloves
¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
1 small red cabbage, finely shredded
1 apple, finely shredded
3 tablespoons brown sugar
5fl oz (150ml) red wine vinegar
2 tablespoons redcurrant jelly

Heat the oven to 160°C/140°C Fan/Gas Mark 2.

Put all the ingredients except the redcurrant jelly into a large tray or dish and mix well. Cover with foil and cook for 2 hours. Remove from the oven, stir through the redcurrant jelly and season.

CRANBERRY AND ORANGE SAUCE (serves 8)

1lb (450g) fresh cranberries, chopped in food processor
Rind and juice of one large orange
Cinnamon stick
4 cloves
1 heaped teaspoon grated root ginger or ½ teaspoon ground ginger
3oz (75g) caster sugar
2-3 tablespoons port

Place all the ingredients except the port in a saucepan. Simmer gently for about five minutes. Remove from heat and stir in the port. Cool and cover until needed. Remove cloves and cinnamon stick before serving.

CHEF'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

The red cabbage will keep in the fridge for up to two days or in the freezer for a month. Make the cranberry sauce a couple of days ahead of serving. Both would be delicious served with a roast dinner at any time.



We are so excited about our **FESTIVE FARMERS MARKET** taking place on **SATURDAY NOVEMBER 30**, from 12.30-2.30pm, in the Village Hall.

We have a bumper number of stalls coming, and there will be SO much amazing produce; ranging from moreish home baked sourdough bread and freshly made local apple juice, to handmade seasonal chocolates, honey and free range eggs. There's locally reared lamb, pork & game, amazing cheeses, superb preserves & oils (perfect for your gift hampers) and your dogs will love you forever more if you get them some of the homemade dog treats on offer!!! Bring your containers to get all your Christmas spices from RefillIT, and grab your healthy fruit juice shots to see you through the busy season. We have freshly ground barista coffee (to enjoy in the hall or takeaway), a huge assortment of homemade cakes, dried flowers both in posies and arrangements, savoury treats (the sausage rolls are to die for!!), environmentally friendly cleaning and personal care products, fresh fruit and vegetables and John will be there with all things fishy!!

Do make sure you come and enjoy our fabulous Market and help support these small local businesses, and of course all proceeds from the Market will be going to our local charities.

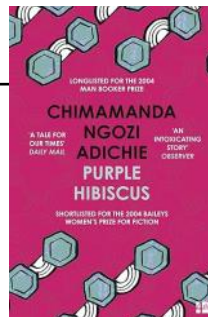
No charge for entry, you just need to enjoy and immerse yourself in all the gorgeous produce!

May your Christmas be merry and bright and thank you for supporting us.

Best wishes,
The Elsenham Farmers Market Team

P.S. NO Market at the end of December
The next one will be on JANUARY 25th 2025 at the usual time
12.30-2.30pm.

PURPLE HIBISCUS by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
Reviewed by Marion Giles for Elsenham Book Group



'The limits of fifteen-year-old Kambili's world are defined by the high walls of her family estate and the dictates of her fanatically religious father. Her life is regulated by schedules: prayer, sleep, study, prayer. When Nigeria is shaken by a military coup, Kambili's father, involved mysteriously in the political crisis, sends her to live with her aunt. In this house, noisy and full of laughter, she discovers life and love – and a terrible, bruising secret deep within her family. This extraordinary debut novel from Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, author of Half of a Yellow Sun, is about the blurred lines between the old gods and the new, childhood and adulthood, love and hatred – the grey spaces in which truths are revealed and real life is lived.' So says the blurb on the back of the book.

- **“An intoxicating story that is at once distinctly feminine, African and universal”** *The Observer*

This was the choice of the book group last month. When the Elsenham Book Group reached its 20th anniversary in October 2022, we decided to read a book each October from a prize winning list from 20 years ago. *Purple Hibiscus* was both long and short-listed for various prizes in 2004.

The AI generated summary of reviews on Amazon said, “*Customers find the book amazing, interesting, and addictive. They praise the writing as beautiful, immersive, rich, descriptive, and subtly described. Readers describe the storytelling as captivating, wonderful, and complex. They also find the emotional content heartbreaking, sad, and sympathy-worthy. Opinions are mixed on the pacing, with some finding it funny and entertaining, while others find it boring.*”

Purple Hibiscus focuses on conflict within family. Kambili and Jaja live with their parents in relative wealth. However, for them and their mother, their lives are overshadowed by domestic violence. Their father requires perfection from the children and punishes anything he considers to be ‘failure’. Their father, whilst successful in business and to the outside world, a generous man, is ruled by the doctrines of Catholicism. Their Grandfather favours old traditions, which results in rejection from his son. The book shows conflict in religion which focuses on ritual, doctrine and obedience. Jaja remarks, “Why did He [God] have to murder his own son so we could be saved? Why didn't He just go ahead and save us?”

As well as conflict in the family, there is strife and conflict in the country. To escape this, the children stay with their aunt and cousins, where they see life differently—without wealth but with laughter and love. The family is supported by a young but virtuous priest bound by priestly celibacy. After their father dies, their lives change forever. However, there is not really a happy ending and Kambili and Jaja also lose their aunt and cousins who move to start life in America.

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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.

Wanted/For Sale items: individuals may submit short details of items wanted or for sale etc at no charge. These will be included in the next available issue of the magazine subject to space and acceptance by the editors.

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Quarter Page	£10.00	£100.00
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Back Page	£75.00	n/a

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

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David Newland

Previous issues of Elsenham News are available on the ECA Website

www.ElsenhamCommunityAssociation.org.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Wreath Workshop Sunday December 1 Memorial Hall

Christmas Tree Festival December 7& 8 St Mary's Church

VILLAGE CONTACTS

Airport Roadside Parking		0800 731 2385
Beavers	1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com	
Bowls Club	Therese Clear	816535 or 07759 158859
Brownies	elsenhambrownies@gmail.com	
Church Office (Old Frank's, High St, Elsenham)	Anna Hicks	814285
County Councillor (Stansted)	Ray Gooding	813103
Cricket Club	David Brown	831011
Cub Scouts	1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com	
ECA (Chairman)	Allan Hathaway	813385
ECA (Secretary)	Moyra Jackson	647351
ECA Website	www.ElsenhamCommunityAssociation.org.uk	
Elsenham Eagles	elsenham.action@btinternet.com	
Elsenham Farmers Market	elsenhamfarmersmarket@gmail.com	
Elsenham Surgery	www.elsenhamsurgery.nhs.uk	814730
Elsenham C of E Primary School	Linda Todd Headteacher	813198
Elsenham Church PCC Secretary	David Hill	812397
Elsenham Fete	ElsenhamSummerFete@gmail.com	
Elsenham Rights of Way website	www.e-voice.org.uk/erowos/	
Friends of Elsenham School (FOES)	Louise Judd	foespta@hotmail.com
Guides elsenhamguides@gmail.com	Gemma Schafer	07792 572423
Henham & District Garden Society	Moyra Jackson	647351
History Society	Mike Rea	evhs12@hotmail.co.uk 813634
Member of Parliament	Kemi Badenoch	0207 219 5214
Memorial Hall Bookings	Cheryl Rae	817834
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator	Frances Lambert	07771 728332
	franceslambertnhw@btinternet.com	
Parish Clerk - Louise Johnson	louise.epc@gmail.com	07456 791727
Elsenham Parish Council Website	www.elsenham-pc.gov.uk	
Police		101
Post Office		812175
Rainbows	elsenhamrainbows@gmail.com	
Scouts	1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com	
St Mary's Fabric Fund	Elizabeth Barker	813543
Tennis Club	Petra Studholme	814667
Tots & Toddlers	Dawn Temple	07944 841358
Uttlesford District Councillors	Petrina Lees	07713 074656
(for Elsenham & Henham)	Bianca Donald	07941 880279
Village Hall Bookings	elsenhamvillagehall@gmail.com	
Womens Institute Secretary	Gill Hathaway	813385
Youth Football Club (Chairman)	Ricky Lambourne	info@elsenhamyfc.co.uk

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



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SATURDAY 2ND NOVEMBER

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