

Elsenham News



We are rapidly approaching Christmas, so it's time to start planning!



See what Santa has planned for you on page 13

Maybe you fancy a Christmas sing-a-long. Head to page 33 for more details



The people at St. Mary's could do with some help with the annual Christmas Tree Festival if you'd like to help. See page 29

Scouts 



The Scouts are always happy to hear from people willing to help and get involved, even more so if you would like to help with Beavers groups. See page 31



elsenhamnews@hotmail.co.uk

November 2025

Elsenham Village Regular Monthly or Quarterly Activities

Parish Council 1st **Monday** of month 7.45pm (excl. Bank Holidays) Memorial Hall
 Elsenham EAGLES 4th **Monday** of month 7.30-9pm Bowls and Social Club
 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
 Natter Night 2nd **Tuesday** of month 7.30pm The Crown
 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

November 2025 diary

Mon 3	Parish Council Meeting	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Tues 4	Henham & District Garden Soc.	Memorial Hall 2 for 2.30pm
Tues 4 & 18	Elsenham Community Choir	Village Hall 7pm
Thurs 6	District Councillors' Surgery	OSCA Henham 6.15pm
Thurs 6 & 20	Community Supermarket	Memorial Hall o/s 1.30-3.30pm
Sat 8	Act of Remembrance	Memorial Garden 10.45pm
Sat 8	Music Night	Bowls & Social Club 8pm
Tues 11	Act of Remembrance	Memorial Garden, High St 10.45am
Tues 11	Natter Night	The Crown 7.30pm
Tues 11 & 25	Life Drawing	Village Hall 7.30pm
Weds 12	History Society Meeting	Memorial Hall 7.45 for 8pm
Thurs 13	ECA General Meeting	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Fri 14 & 28	Church Lunch Club	Memorial Hall 12.30pm
Sat 15 & 29	Bingo	Bowls & Social Club 7 for 7.30pm
Thurs 20	WI	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Sat 22	Elsenham Christmas Market	Golf World, Stansted 2-4pm
Sat 22	Bowls Club Quiz	Bowls & Social Club 7.30pm
Mon 24	Elsenham Eagles	Bowls & Social Club 7.15pm
Sat 29	Farmers' Market	Village Hall 12.30-2.30pm



Mobile Library
Every third Saturday stopping at Glebe End
9.30am to 10am Next visit: 8 & 29 November

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
	9.30-11.30am	Village Café Coffee	Memorial Hall
	12.15-1pm	Touchpoint Food Share	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	9.45-11.30	Tots and Toddlers	Memorial Hall
	6.30-7.15pm	Women's strength and Mobility	Village Hall
	7-9pm	Scouts	Ugley Village Hall (term-time)
	7.30pm	Aerobics	Elsenham Village Hall
Thursday	9-10am	Teddy Bear Music	Memorial Hall (term-time)
	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	8.30am-noon	Tarte au Citroen	Playing Field
	8.15am-1pm	Youth boys & girls football	Playing Field
	8.45-9.30am	Little Kickers Mighty	Village Hall (term time)
	9-10am	Forte Dance Class	Memorial Hall
	9.35-10.20am	Little Kickers Junior	Village Hall (term time)

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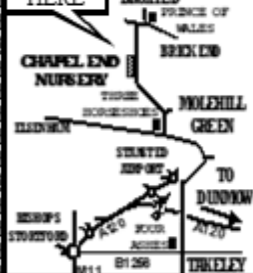
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Welcome to the November issue, which is once again full of our regular features.

As we near Christmas it is also time to start planning ahead for the festive season and we have a few contributors who would love your help, as well as those inviting you along to the fun they have in store for you..

It is important at this time of the year to think of others, so please do think about helping out either through contributions or giving of your time, there are certainly lots of options for you to consider in this month's issue.

The Parish Council is saying farewell to Louise Johnson, who has decided to retire after 14 years' valiant service as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

Thankfully, there is a new recruit to take up the reins. Welcome to Fiona Gardiner, who we are sure will do a superb job.

There is always a lot going on and, as usual, you can catch up with most of it here in the latest issue.

Have a great November and start planning your Christmas with help from within!

The Editorial Team

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getting
READY
for
Christmas



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10am-12

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ELSENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

6 OCTOBER

By Louise Johnson, Clerk.

louise.epc@gmail.com ☎ 07456 791727

📄 www.elsenham-pc.gov.uk/

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The Chair extended a warm welcome to Fiona Gardiner, who will be taking over the position of Parish Clerk and RFO on 1 December 2025.

There are several airport parking issues in and around Elsenham. Cllr. Gooding is trying to establish if there is link to them. The airport parking at New Farm, Elsenham Road is now with the legal system. The District Council has served a notice on the site, but the owners have since appealed against the notice. Therefore, UDC's Enforcement cannot take any further action until the matter has been resolved by the planning inspector.

Cllr. Gooding received another reminder regarding the need to establish a buffer zone on Stansted Road. As vehicles enter the village over the motorway bridge, the speed limit drops from 60mph to 30mph, but many drivers are not slowing down as required. The ongoing issue of excessive speeding on Stansted Road needs urgent attention. Recently, a hit-and-run left two sixteen-year-olds hospitalized, with one suffering a serious head injury.

The Playing Field Committee has scheduled the replacement of the window in the teen shelter. It is hoped that the new window will remain undamaged.

The Parish Council must begin preparing its 2026/27 budget for approval at the Full Council meeting on 5 January 2026.

The annual allotment invoices have been sent to all plot holders. These should have been paid by 1 October but there are still some outstanding.

The Bloor phase 3 planning application for 129 homes has been submitted to UDC. Though located in Henham, it will impact Elsenham; the application is included in the new Local Plan.

The appeal regarding Gladman's planning application for Bedwell Road is being held starting on 3 December 2025. Cllr. Mott will be attending the appeal hearing.

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DEVELOPMENT DEVELOPMENTS

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



Uttlesford District Council's Local Plan continues to be examined by the Inspectors. A consultation on major modifications closes on 27 October, with waggy-finger warnings that any comments which stray outside the very limited issues raised will be consigned to the electronic waste bin.

One issue of local concern is not mentioned, since it is claimed that it is not a modification, major, minor, or minuscule, at all. Uttlesford resolved that they would appraise developments by 'settlement' rather than by parish. They decreed that land adjacent to consented Bloor applications is in Elsenham 'settlement', although actually in the parish of Henham, which is lower down the development hierarchy than Elsenham. Provision for a further 110 homes was duly included in the Local Plan. When UDC were asked where the settlement boundary between the two parishes might lie, the mirth-making reply was: 'Just to be clear, the settlement boundary is not intended to function as a boundary between settlements'. Not content with that, they continued with a further rib-tickler, by way of explanation that although the boundary couldn't be found on the relevant map, that is for a very good reason. There is a 'visibility issue', which means it cannot be seen, but not that it doesn't exist - although how to tell the difference between a line which can't be seen because it's not visible, and one which can't be seen because it's not there remains a mystery.

The current best estimate by Uttlesford is that the Local Plan will be adopted in April 2026, always assuming the Inspectors don't linger unduly over Christmas. Bloor Homes have not waited for such niceties as approval of the Local Plan. They have banged in an application on the land in question, which is north and east of 'Bloor 2' and adjoins the north-east corner of 'Bloor 1', such that the 'educational provision' can be doubled in size. In recognition of making this land available to Essex, Bloor were given the 'quid pro quo' of another 110 homes in the Local Plan, which they have stretched to 129 in their application.

When 'Bloor 3' was first mooted, there were enthusiastic noises around the idea of a shop on the site, but now Bloor have decided that, well, really, it's not a very suitable location, it's all very unfortunate, but they will have no alternative than to fill the site with as many houses as possible, without it being too obvious that that's their intention. There are insufficient bungalows, which are much needed for downsizing purposes in view of the large amount of new developments in the village. Whether they consider that they've provided enough already is unknown. It has seemingly not occurred to them - or, if it has, they've ignored it - that with their total of housing now standing at 679 (350 + 200 + 129), some provision for employment should be made on the site. But they're not interested in that. To a developer, the proximity of the station means selling more houses to commuters, and they don't mind how crowded the trains might be.

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Session dates for 2025/2026

Saturday 4th October Saturday 18th October Saturday 1st November
Saturday 15th November Saturday 22nd November Saturday 13th December
Saturday 3rd January Saturday 17th January Saturday 31st January
Saturday 14th February Saturday 28th February Saturday 14th March

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ELSENHAM VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

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



Elsenham has been around a long time. First written mention was in the Domesday Book of 1086 but we know from archaeological evidence that there was an Iron Age settlement here dating from around 700 – 500BC. There was also evidence found of a first century AD high end Roman villa. These were found by the Stansted Brook near where Hall Road now crosses the stream.

At some point the centre of the village moved from there, up the hill to what is now Elsenham Cross possibly as a result of the Great Plague causing people to look for healthier surroundings. The area around Elsenham Cross is probably the oldest part of the existing village where there is a preponderance of older buildings many of which are listed including the Crown Inn that dates from the 18th century.

But what is a listed building? Well, a listed building is a building of great historical or artistic value that has official protection to prevent it being changed or destroyed and is included on a statutory list. Buildings are assigned a Grade according to their level of historic interest. Grade I buildings are of exceptional historic interest; Grade II* buildings are of great historic interest; Grade II Buildings are of special historic interest.

In Elsenham we have one Grade I listed building, that being our church, St Mary The Virgin that dates back to 1100AD. There are another fifty-six Grade II listed buildings in and around Elsenham including the aforementioned Crown Inn, the 16th century Elsenham Place and the 18th century Elsenham Hall. This number represents one of the highest density of listings in the country.

If you are interested in exploring some of these buildings, EVHS publish a small booklet of “History Walks Around Elsenham” available from our website for just two pounds.

Listed Elsenham was the subject of the talk at our last meeting and went into much more interesting detail than can be captured in the precis above. This is just one example from our programme of talks that cover the many diverse aspects of local history. Next year’s programme for example includes talks on policing in Essex and the local railway amongst others.

However, the last meeting of this year takes place in just a few days’ time as you read this, on Wednesday 12 November. Just a few days after Halloween, when we will learn all about “The Witch Trials of Herts and Essex.” Our speaker, Prof. Alison Rowlands is an authority on the subject and this promises to be a very interesting evening. All are welcome and visitors pay just two pounds.



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Daisy May's Farm

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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 a variety of babies that are so cute, but very cheeky!

At the moment there are sheep, goats, ponies, all sorts of chickens, ducks, turkeys, pheasants 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.

Entry is £6 per person and we are open daily until 5.00pm.

See you soon!



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 WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

By Moyra Jackson ☎ 647351



How quickly has this year flown by? I really can't believe that Christmas is almost upon us.

Many from Elsenham joined WI Members from all over Essex, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire and Suffolk West to visit Audley End to celebrate the WI organisation reaching its 110th birthday. We all had a fabulous day and we were joined by Jeryl Stone, Honorary Chair of the National Federation of WIs. It was wonderful to see and hear over 600 WI members join together in front of Audley End and give a rousing rendition of 'Jerusalem'.

Okay, own up, how many lists do you have on the go at the moment?

On my WI list I have lots of good things coming up before the end of the year. The Act of Remembrance on the 8 November is always at the top of the list. Along with many village organisations we are very proud to take part in the service and lay a wreath at the Cross in the Memorial Garden. Then it is our great honour to provide refreshments back at the Memorial Hall for all who attend the service. Something we have done for over ten years now.

A few of us are going to Southend Pier to see the display of over 70,000 poppies, many of them having been crafted by WI members from all over Essex. This is on from 5 –16 November if you want to see them. The fabulous annual Essex Federation Carol Concerts are on Wednesday 3 December and this year they are down in Westcliff-on-sea at Kings Road URC, 2.30pm or 7pm. Tickets are available at the door or, to avoid disappointment, through Ticketsource.

Our November meeting is "Guilty or Not Guilty: The case of William Wallace" with Phillip McKinder. In case of any confusion – this is not an exposé on the Sir William Wallace, Guardian of Scotland 1297-98. The competition is your favourite Crime Book.

Coming along to Elsenham WI is a really good way to make friends, especially if you are new to the area. The 'Jam and Jerusalem' traditions of our formation in 1921 have allowed us to grow and develop into the modern and forward-looking WI that we are today. We are happy to dispel any of the stereotypes associated with WI, but our cakes *are* delicious! 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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Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

From the outset, it was clear that the option of LGR *not* happening was off the table. Uttlesford District Council has been listed on the Government's **Devolution Priority Programme** since January, confirming that reorganisation is inevitable. Our choice, therefore, was to either help shape what happens or sit back and let it happen to us. We of course wanted to ensure we were involved right from the beginning.

A key consideration has been the **size of any new authority**. Essex has a population of around **1.9 million**, so dividing that by the number of proposed unitary councils gives an indication of their average size:

- One single unitary: ~1.9 million residents
- Two unitaries: ~950,000 residents each
- Five unitaries: ~380,000 residents each

While the Government suggested that new unitaries should generally serve populations of **500,000 or more**, it later clarified that this was *not* a hard rule — smaller, well-argued proposals would be considered.

Our **Chief Executive** played a leading national role in this discussion, publishing research comparing outcomes across all **132 existing unitary councils** in England. His findings showed **no correlation between council size and quality of outcomes for residents** — in other words, larger councils do not necessarily deliver better services. This evidence supported our position that keeping local government as *local as possible* should remain the priority.

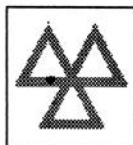
Based on this research and broad agreement among Essex councils, we concluded that the **maximum realistic number of new unitaries for Essex** would be **five**, each averaging around 380,000 residents. A single countywide unitary was quickly discounted — the largest existing unitary, Birmingham, has around 1.1 million residents, meaning a whole-Essex authority would be almost twice that size.

In March, **Uttlesford District Council formally agreed in principle** to support the creation of five new unitary councils across Essex. Ten council leaders — representing all political parties — have now confirmed their collective support for this model, which would replace the current 15 councils with five new authorities. The proposal aligns with the Government's invitation for councils to suggest new structures that **simplify local government while keeping services close to residents**.

Continued overleaf

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Continued from previous page

In a joint open letter, all ten council leaders stated that Essex residents “**deserve councils that are local, accountable, and responsive.**” They emphasised that reorganisation should “**promote growth by respecting the geography of this hugely diverse county and by bringing government closer to residents, not further away.**”

The **five-unitary model** is locally developed, rooted in community identity, and designed to protect local service delivery. Under this model, **Uttlesford would join Harlow and Epping Forest to form a new West Essex Council.** Other models are also under consideration, including a **three-unitary proposal** from Essex County Council, which would place Uttlesford within a much larger new area.

As Leader, **Cllr Petrina Lees** has stated: “I have consistently argued that keeping local government as local as possible is the best way forward for Essex. The five-council model provides meaningful reorganisation and protects local services. Local councils are better placed to provide services such as education, social care, and highways, as opposed to larger councils that may have less understanding of local needs.”

Cllr Bianca Donald added: “We are also committed to local representation, with our model having one councillor for every 3,000 residents — 25 councillors for the Uttlesford area — compared with the Essex County model’s 15.” Ultimately, the decision will rest with Government — but whatever happens, we remain committed to working together across Greater Essex to ensure that any changes protect our communities and achieve the best outcomes for residents.

Hate Crime Awareness Week

In October, as part of **Hate Crime Awareness Week**, Uttlesford District Council joined **Essex Police** and **Essex Fire and Rescue Service** to raise awareness and offer support across the district.

It was an important opportunity for us to stand together as a community and reaffirm that **hate has no place here**. Hate crimes — whether based on race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity — can have a devastating impact on individuals and communities.

We believe that kindness is a fundamental part of our community, and this was clearly shown during the events. The sessions provided a safe and welcoming space to learn what constitutes a hate crime, how to report incidents, and how to access support.

Councillor Surgery

Our next monthly surgery will be held on **Thursday 6th November at Osca in Henham, at 6.15pm**, prior to the Parish Council meeting. Residents are welcome to drop in without an appointment. As always, you can also contact us directly by email or phone with any questions about this report or any district council matters.

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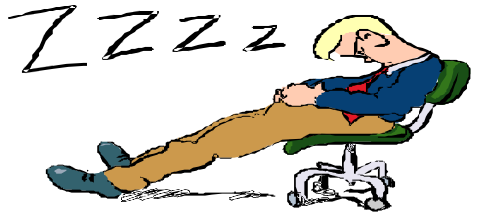
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The Elsenham Mothers Union

Enter Elsenham Church and walk towards the altar. Now look to your left and towards the corner of the Church. There you will see, looking all lonely and abandoned, a small flag bearing the initials MU. That, apart from a few photos, is all that is left of the Elsenham Mothers Union. Over time, many vicars have supported the MU, during the time Rev. Brian Green was in the village, his wife, Sheila Green, made that flag.

This Society was started within the Church of England on December 31 1826 and has more than 15,000 branches throughout the World. The Elsenham Branch of this Society had strong ties with our neighbouring villages. Meetings were often held in homes within Henham. This was from the 1970s, although an exact date is not known. They had not only local meetings but the occasional day trip, once visiting our Parliament in London.

Once a large group, the numbers declined. The last was the meeting held within the home of Pat Ackerman at Christmas 1997. It is recorded that in spite of the sadness of the occasion they all had a happy meeting led by their enrolling member, Mrs J. Morphew, with carols and readings and enjoyed a glass of sherry, tea and mince pies. The Vicar, Dick Farr was present and witnessed the closure of the Elsenham Mothers Union.

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AID FOR ROMANIA

By Richard Peake ☎ 850374

Our winter lorry was dispatched in mid 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 others by the town mayor, with the better quality ones sold through our charity shop out there with proceeds helping the same poor sections of the population with health, education and improving their terrible housing conditions.

We are now wanting **SUMMER** clothes (shoes must be brand new – new Romanian rules) for adults and **children** (under 3yrs must be new). Single and Z beds with mattresses (sturdy iron or wooden framed beds are very desirable - no divans). Cushions, bed sheets, pillows, duvets and blankets (single and double), towels, toiletries (incl loo rolls), umbrellas and rugs (no carpet offcuts). Bicycles – adult and children's and scooters. Building and workshop tools (also some types of gardening tools). Surplus school tables (must be 2ft clearance underneath ie not infant) and stackable adult size chairs (please ask any contact with a local school or village hall who are/maybe re-furbishing - I can arrange collection). Sturdy chest of drawers (not flat pack built as these do not survive the five day truck journey to Romania), bedside cabinets, kitchen/dining tables (either drop-leaf or removable legs) and corner display units. Irons and boards as well as air driers for laundry. Kitchen items (crockery, cutlery, utensils, pots/pans – esp big sizes eg preserving pans). Wheelchairs, crutches, walking sticks, zimmers. Bandages and dressings (*absolutely NO pills, medicines or creams*). 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 as these cause much jealousy!). Large plastic storage boxes with lids. Surplus Christmas trees and decorations.

We are especially looking for a pair of identical 2ft 6in wide mattresses (we already have the bases).

Cash donations for the cost of the lorry as 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 around to 1 Hall Close, Henham during November. Contact Richard Peake first on 01279 850374 or 07831 406225 to arrange delivery etc.

ST MARY'S CHURCH ELSENHAM

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Thought For The Month by *Louis Wilson*

On the wall of my school hall in Gravesend, there were a few random portraits of old men. They were not exciting, and I never took much notice of them.

But there was one that was different. It was a picture of a much younger man in a blue uniform. To be honest, I didn't pay much attention. It was a relic from a bygone era. I never dreamt of asking what it meant or why it was there.

Years went by, and one day I found myself at the RAF museum at Hendon, in north London. They have Spitfires, Hurricanes, Typhoons, Mustangs, Mosquitoes - but most impressively, a Lancaster bomber.

I started reading about the Lancaster pilots and I read the story of Squadron Leader Robert Palmer. He flew 110 bombing missions. That was an exceptionally high number.

In December 1944, he was leading a daylight attack on marshalling yards in Cologne. It was his job to mark the target. Two of his plane's four engines were set on fire by anti-aircraft shells. But even so, he made a perfect approach and his bombs hit the target before his plane was destroyed.

The article went on to say that Squadron Leader Palmer displayed conspicuous bravery. His record of prolonged and heroic endeavour was said to be beyond praise. And aged just 24, he was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross.

But what really caught my eye was that Robert Palmer was born in north Kent and he attended Gravesend Grammar

School for Boys: my old school.

Suddenly I was back in that hall, seeing that portrait. I still had a friend who taught at the Grammar School and I called him that evening. And he confirmed that the picture still hanging in the hall, is a portrait of Squadron Leader Robert Palmer VC, DFC and Bar.

But now the portrait and the man had real significance. Without explanation, he meant nothing to me. But give it explanation and suddenly his life had real meaning. He was brave to the point of death, as so many were. Brave enough to give his life, so that ultimately others could live.

Two thousand years ago, another man was brave enough to die a sacrificial death for others. I guess many of us grew up with some knowledge of the Christian story. I did. But for many years it was like the portrait in my school hall: meaningless and insignificant because I never took the time or trouble to find out the explanation.

There is an explanation. Just one verse in the Bible explains: **Romans chapter 5 verse 8**: But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

This November, as we remember Robert Palmer and so many like him, I want to invite you to consider Christ and the death he died, not for his friends, but for his enemies.

We will be marking Remembrance in various ways on the weekend of 8 and 9 November. Do join us.

CHURCH EVENTS IN OUR VILLAGES NOVEMBER 2025

Church Services

Sunday 2nd November

10:30 All Together All Age Service,
Elsenham Village Hall

18:00 Sunday@6, Henham Church

Sunday 9th November

Remembrance Services:

08:45 Prayer Book Morning Prayer,
Elsenham Church

10:15 Morning Service, Ugley Church

10:30 Morning Praise Service
Elsenham Village Hall

10:45 Act of Remembrance,
Henham War Memorial

18:00 Sunday@6, Henham Church

Sunday 16th November

08:45 Prayer Book Holy Communion,
Elsenham Church

10:00 Prayer Book Holy Communion,
Ugley Church

10:30 Morning Praise Service,
Elsenham Village Hall

18:00 Sunday@6, Henham Church

Sunday 23rd November

08:45 Prayer Book Morning Prayer
Elsenham Church

10:00 Morning Service, Ugley Church

10:30 Morning Praise Communion,
Henham Church

18:00 Sunday@6, Henham Church

Sunday 30th November

08:45 Prayer Book Morning Prayer
Elsenham Church

10:00 Morning Service, Ugley Church

10:30 Morning Praise,
Elsenham Village Hall

18:00 Sunday@6 HC, Henham Church

Acts of Remembrance

Saturday 8th November, 10:45am

**Act of Remembrance, Elsenham
Memorial Gardens**

Sunday 9th November, 10:45am

**Henham War Memorial followed by
refreshments.**

Other Regular Events

SUNDAYS:

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

**Leave from Morning Praise Service
10.30am. Sundays: 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th
Pathfinders (Y6-Y9)**

**Henham Church 6.00pm - leave from
service to meet in the New Church
Hall, Henham Church.
Sundays: 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th**

Crammin' (Y10-Y13)

**Henham Church 6.00pm - leave from
service to meet in the New Church
Hall Henham Church.
Sundays: 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th**

MID-WEEK AND SATURDAY:

**Start the Week with Prayer
Old Frank's, Elsenham 9.30am
Mondays: 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th**

**Seekers After School Bible Club
(Y3-Y4) Old Frank's 3.20pm
Mondays: 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th**

**Christian Play (Y1-Y2)
Rowan House, Elsenham 3.15pm
Tuesdays: 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th**

**Little Fishes Pre-School Group
New Church Hall, Henham Church
9.15am
Thursday: 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th**

**Little Fishes Pre-School Group
Elsenham Memorial Hall 10.00am
Fridays: 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th**

**Church Lunch Club
Elsenham Memorial Hall 12.30pm
Fridays: (2nd & 4th Friday of the month):
14th & 28th**

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There's so much happening at Stansted u3a this November, with something to interest everyone.

Our brand-new Understanding IT group continues with a particularly timely session: *"Scams — Spotting the Digital Con Artists"* on 18th November. Together we'll examine phishing emails, fake websites, and those too-good-to-be-true online offers. With real examples to review, members will learn how to spot the red flags and share personal experiences. It promises to be a lively, practical session that could save us all from costly mistakes.

Meanwhile, the Poetry Group meets in its usual slot on Thursday 6th November, turning its attention to the life and work of poet and comedian Henry Normal. On Monday 10th November, the Garden Group will take time out over tea and cake to reflect on the past season and plan a fresh programme of visits and activities for the year ahead.

A highlight of the month will undoubtedly be our Saturday Seminar on 15th November. We are delighted to welcome back Jo Brooks, one of our own members and a much-appreciated art historian. Jo is well known for her beautifully illustrated talks and her deep knowledge of art. This time she will focus on her favourite painter, Titian, bringing alive his genius, influence, and dramatic style. This seminar is one not to miss.

Finally, our monthly meeting on Thursday 20th November at St Theresa's Parish Centre (1.30 for 2.00pm) will feature speaker Pamela Holmes, who will uncover the fascinating life of the *Huntingfield Heroine*, a Suffolk woman of extraordinary vision, now largely forgotten.

This is just a glimpse of all that's happening. With groups ranging from art to walking and new activities always starting up, Stansted u3a offers something for everyone. **Visitors are always welcome — come along and see for yourself!**

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As we head towards Christmas it's time to think of our Christmas Tree Festival again. That's right – another year gone by! This year it will be held over the weekend of **6 and 7 December** with the Church open each of the days from **10.30 am to 5.00 pm**. Entry is free and there will be refreshments available.

For those new to the village this has been a fixture in the Fabric Fund's calendar since 2009, when we started it to celebrate the 900th year of our beautiful little early Norman Church and the village has demanded that it continues every year! The results, with the Church full of trees illuminating the ancient stone and wood, is magical!

This year we will continue with the tradition of decorating and displaying all your trees (loads of trees!) in the Church – if you would like to join in by decorating a tree, or would like further information, please contact Jill (01279 812397) or Elizabeth (01279 813543). We charge a nominal fee for displaying a tree, and it can be themed to promote your memories, opinions, hopes or even your business. The choice is yours. Note that even now spaces are filling up, so don't delay.

We do need your help to carry on with this wonderful event, so if you are able to donate an hour or so of your time to support the magic, please contact us. We anticipate needing help with such things as assembling display boards, preparing and serving food, decorating the Church, welcoming visitors and organising car parking.

May we thank you in advance for your support!





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Scouts

1st Henham and Elsenham

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The 1st Henham & Elsenham Scout Group is one of the few local organisations still offering a wide range of extra-curricular activities for young people in our growing communities. Today, more than 70 children and teenagers take part across our four Sections (one Beaver Colony, two Cub Packs, and a Scout Troop), thanks to the dedication of our volunteer leaders who deliver fun, adventurous, and rewarding programmes each week.

While we are always looking for extra help across all age groups, we are now in urgent need of new leaders for our Beaver Colony (ages 6–8). With some current leaders moving on, there is a real risk that the Beavers Section may have to close after Christmas without new volunteers stepping forward. This would not only deprive local children of valuable opportunities and experiences but also have a wider impact on the Group's finances and sustainability.

That's why we are appealing to residents to consider volunteering with Scouts. Becoming a leader means joining a friendly, supportive team and helping to keep Scouting alive in Henham and Elsenham. No prior experience is needed, just enthusiasm, a willingness to get involved and a desire to make a difference.

Leaders must be 18 years or older and be willing to undergo the required DBS checks to work with young people. All training is provided free of charge (and is an excellent CV enhancer, especially for young people looking to gain experience during/after college, etc.!), including First Aid, uniform and full support from the Leadership Team and Trustee Board.

Beavers meet during term time on Tuesday evenings from 5:15 to 6:15 pm. In addition, the Beavers Leadership Team meets roughly every six weeks for a planning and strategy meeting; sessions which are short, sociable, and a great chance to share ideas.

Without enough leaders, we cannot run meetings safely, and sadly, the Beavers Section may close. If you, or someone you know, would like to be part of "the gang" and help make Scouting possible for our young people, please do get in touch. You'll be joining a committed, welcoming team making a real difference in our community.

Please contact Matt Morland, Volunteer Group Lead on ☎ 07423 620120 or by email 1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com, if you would like more information. We would love to hear from you!

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ELSENHAM COMMUNITY CHOIR

We are delighted to announce that we will be performing at our first ever **Christmas Choral Extravaganza** on **Saturday 13th December** at **Elsenham Village Hall** (next to the school) **from 3pm**.

We will be singing a variety of festive songs, some old and some completely new to us and we would love you to join us!

We will be singing for about an hour and there will be festive refreshments after.

There will be no charge for this event, but we will be happy to receive donations for a local charity.

We have been practising hard so don't miss us!

Merry Christmas, ho ho ho!!!

GARDEN HINT *By Sue Johnson*

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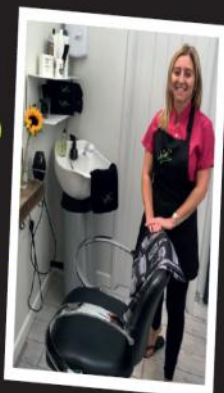
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Craig Pike



THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

By Ken McDonald, Secretary

📧 www.hundredparishes.org.uk



On a fine September day, I caught an early train to Ware before tackling the longest walk on the Society's website. Station Walk number 18 covers 17 miles (28 kilometres) between Ware Station and Stansted Mountfitchet Station. Although I walk regularly, it was some years since I last covered that distance in a day, so I carried a mobile phone just in case.

An advantage of this route is that it heads north for several miles and then turns east, so for much of the way the sun is behind to give the best views.

After leaving Ware, the route is all in lovely countryside, passing through eight of our hundred parishes: Wareside, Standon, Thundridge, Braughing and Albury in Hertfordshire and then Farnham, Manuden and Stansted Mountfitchet in Essex. Through these parishes, only Standon and Stansted contributed much more than the occasional farmhouse. They, along with Gravesend in Albury, also offered opportunities for refreshment.



The route follows a series of good paths and tracks, rising and falling between river valleys. It passes over the River Lea just after the start, spends several miles along the Rib valley, and crosses the Ash and the Stort.

The journey crosses the Greenwich Meridian, the original route of Roman Stane Street and the former Buntingford railway line. It passes beside Barwick Ford, Standon Lordship, Patmore Heath and Stansted Windmill and there are sightings of distant churches, water towers and much more. But the best views are of unspoilt, rolling countryside and occasional wildlife.

I completed the walk, accompanied for the last six miles by my wife Janice, after lunch in Gravesend. Altogether, a most enjoyable day, and the legs only ached a bit for the next few days! Having completed this challenge, I can return to the many shorter routes on our website.

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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NEWPORT & DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

Contact Patricia Sanz ✉ flowersanzp2020@gmail.com



The glorious weather has continued and our club members and visitors were treated to a wonderful evening in September with a demonstration by Violeta Veikniene, a floral demonstrator new to NAFAS – the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies.

Violeta is no stranger to the world of flowers however and holds the title of Master Florist having worked in the industry for several years. We particularly thank her for travelling all the way from north of Norwich to be with us.

Looking forward, our last meeting of the year will be on 19 November when the much loved and talented Barbara Collins will be setting the Christmas scene with her festive displays. This really is an evening not to be missed with light refreshments included. Visitors will be warmly welcomed, £15.



The following meeting will be in February 2026. If you would like to find out more about these events or our club, please contact Shirley Wilcock at shirley.wilcock@hotmail.co.uk or myself (as above).

Our meetings are at 7pm for 7.30pm start every third Wednesday of the month at Ugley Village Hall CM22 6HR

STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

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



What a year it has been for our women sports teams. Both the Lionesses (football) and the Red Roses (Red Roses) have had tremendous success in 2025. Individually our girls performed very well in the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo. The England Women's cricket team are now competing for the World Cup in India hopefully they will be successful. So where are all of you young cricketers? As a club Stansted Hall & Elsenham would welcome you. We just one or two very capable young female cricketers - please come and join them.

Congratulations to William Zobel for his wicketkeeping performance last season as he has just won the HEBL Division 3 'wicketkeeper of 2025 – most victims' prize. William has come through the junior section from a very young age, scores a lot of runs and performs well behind the stumps. To add to that he has recently become a doctor. He is a prime example of what our club is all about. Youngsters continue to be educated at our club whilst enjoying themselves. Being a team member teaches them collective responsibility, thinking, considering, and mixing with other team members.

Our General Knowledge Quiz will be held in January and indoor nets start in February. Interested in joining our club please contact me.

November 2025

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ELSENHAM BOWLS AND SOCIAL CLUB

🌐 www.elsenhambc.org.uk

By David Thomas



Congratulations this month go to our ladies who won the Ladies Monday Night League which is sponsored by Danial Robinson. Six games are played in this league between local clubs over the summer. This year it was a hard-fought battle between clubs with a close result giving victory to Elsenham.

Please remember our next music night on November 8 with Steve Brown playing a range of songs from the bands like the Rat Pack and Buddy Holly. Tickets are available now at £7.50 for members and £12.50 for non-members. Ticket availability is limited so please call Trevor on 📞 07445 437437 to secure your ticket for the event.

All members are reminded to save the date of our Christmas Dinner and Dance on December 13 with music from Around Midnight (back by popular demand). Please make sure you book your place and your selection from the menu for the evening.

Join us on a Friday for our social evening, pop along any time from 7pm. There is also short mat on a Monday afternoon which is getting very competitive with Crib and Darts through the week. Bingo sessions are at 7:00 for 7:30 on November 15 and 29.

For full details about Elsenham Bowls Club including membership and our opening times please see our website www.elsenhambc.org.uk

TRANSPORT UPDATE

By Ray Franklin

Despite numerous warnings of possible changes to our time table the “Bus Passenger News,” of August 31 showed there were no change AS YET to our services.

However, there are proposed changes mentioned at the bottom of the “Local Bus Consultation.” This consultation closed on 27 October

The proposed changes which could possibly come into force from November 1 are:

The total withdrawing of the 8.49 early morning bus from Stansted Airport to Bishop’s Stortford. The afternoon 3.30 bus would now run at 4.00. All buses after 4.00 would be put forward by 30 minutes. Resulting in the possible withdrawing of the last bus.

In all cases “Stephenson’s” (our Bus Operator) say these rarely used buses are uneconomic.



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Christmas Womens' Pudding Evening

December 4th
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FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

A Funeral Service at Elsenham Church on 1 October 2025, Sylvia Celia Harvey, aged 88 years, formerly of Highfield Nursing Home, Saffron Walden.

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

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

Vicar	01279 850480 louis.wilson@heuchurch.co.uk	Rev. Louis Wilson
Curate	petetibbott@heuchurch.co.uk	Pete Tibbott
Church Office	01279 814285 office@heuchurch.co.uk	Anna Hicks
Church website	https://heuchurch.org	

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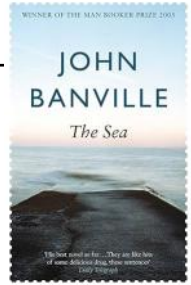
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THE SEA BY JOHN BANVILLE

Reviewed by Marion Giles for Elsenham Book Group

“When art historian Max Morden returns to the seaside village where he once spent a childhood holiday, he is both escaping from a recent loss and confronting a distant trauma.



The Grace family had appeared that long-ago summer as if from another world. Mr and Mrs Grace, with their worldly ease and candour, were unlike any adults he had met before. But it was his contemporaries, the Grace twins Myles and Chloe, who most fascinated Max. He grew to know them intricately, even intimately. What happened next would haunt him for the rest of his years, and shape everything that was to follow.” So says the blurb on the back of the book.

This was the choice of the book group this month.

The Amazon AI summarises: Customers find the book brilliantly written with intriguing plotting and emotional truth, with one review describing it as a rapturously written novel of loss and love. Moreover, they appreciate its thought-provoking content, with one review highlighting its insightful reminiscences of childhood, and consider it a worthwhile read. However, the language quality receives mixed feedback, with several customers noting the thick vocabulary, while opinions about the novel's quality are also divided.

The Elsenham book group was formed in October 2003. To celebrate 20 years, in 2023, we read a prize winning book from 20 years ago. We decided to make it a tradition every year so the book chosen for October was the Booker Prize-winning novel of 2005. We read many reviews that described this prize-winning novel: incandescent prose, beautifully textured characterisation and transparent narratives. To be honest, only one of us liked it.

In terms of the prose, adding a simile to every sentence and stuffing it with adjectives and archaic vocabulary became very tedious as the book went on.

In terms of characterisation, it was hard to connect with such a dislikeable person. He was a true misanthrope, unpleasant to others, dismissive of his daughter and full of his ego and academic abilities. He was unnecessarily cruel to animals, which he seemed to believe made him attractive to Chloe.

Lastly, we found the novel long on 'style' and short on story, which was not enough to save it. There is less about the recent loss of his wife and more about the events of a childhood holiday and the effect that place had on him. Of course, he is also mourning his lost friends, his youth, the first taste of love.

Most of us persisted solely for the reveal, but realised we didn't much care. Considering there was so much praise for this book, for us it was like marmite.



We are so excited about our **FESTIVE FARMERS MARKET** taking place on **SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER, 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 and fudge, honey and free-range eggs. There's locally reared lamb, pork and game, amazing cheeses, superb preserves and oils (perfect for your gift hampers) and your dogs will love you for ever more if you get them some of the homemade dog treats on offer!!!

Bring your containers to get all your Christmas spices from RefillIT, as well as loose tea leaves, seeds, pasta, herbs and so much more. There will be all sorts of plants for both inside and out, homemade jams and chutneys, 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 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, we will be back on **JANUARY 31 2026** at the usual time of **12.30-2.30pm**.

COOKERY CORNER

By Sue Johnson ☎ 812704



Crumbles are a great all-round family dish, a good way of using gluts of fruits in season, such as apples, plums, rhubarb, blackberries or a mixture of everything! Delicious served with thick cream, crème fraîche, ice cream or Greek yogurt.

THE HUMBLE CRUMBLE (serves 6)

For the crumble topping:

8oz (225g) plain flour

3oz (75g) butter, at room temperature

5oz (150g) soft brown sugar

Preheat the oven to 180°C/fan 160°C/gas mark 4.

If you have a food processor, place the flour and butter in the bowl, pulse for half a minute until crumbly. Then add the sugar and pulse again briefly until well combined. Otherwise, just mix with your fingertips in a large bowl, flour and butter first, adding the sugar last.

Spiced Apple and Raisin Crumble (serves 6):

2lb (900g) Bramley Apples, peeled, cored and sliced

3oz (75g) raisins

1oz (25g) soft brown sugar

½ teaspoon ground cloves

1 level teaspoon ground cinnamon

Put all the ingredients in a saucepan, sprinkle with a little water, then cook gently until the apples are soft and fluffy. Spoon the mixture into a 3-pint (1.75 litre) pie-dish. Sprinkle with the crumble topping. Cook for 30-40 minutes.

CHEF'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

My favourite crumble is damson and cinnamon: 2lb (900g) damsons, 4oz (110g) demerara sugar and 1 teaspoon of powdered cinnamon.

Also highly recommend rhubarb and ginger: 2lb (900g) rhubarb, 3oz (75g) soft brown sugar and 1 teaspoon powdered ginger, cooked in a saucepan over a gentle heat for 15 minutes before baking.

Dried fruit crumble is also delicious, using a mixture of dried apricots, figs, raisins and prunes, weighing in all about 1lb (450g), soaked overnight with 2oz (50g) demerara sugar in the juice and zest of one large orange, then simmered gently in a pan over a low heat for a few minutes before baking.

Editorial Information

Articles

The **last day** for editors to receive articles, advertising and letters, which must contain the author's name and address (which may be withheld), is the 12th of each month.

Articles should ideally consist of a half page of A5 or a full page of A5. Articles over these sizes or letters containing more than 500 words may be edited depending on space.

Copy submitted after the 12th may not be accepted but will, if deemed appropriate, be held over to the next month. We are happy to receive hand written articles which ideally should reach us earlier than the 12th to allow for scanning etc.

Dates for the Diary must include date, event, venue and time.

Please submit all articles, adverts, letters and queries to the editorial team at:
elsenhamnews@hotmail.co.uk

General Notes

Whilst every effort is made to ensure that information is correct, the editorial team cannot be held responsible for any inconvenience caused through errors or omissions.

The views expressed within this magazine are not necessarily the views of the editorial team or Elsenham Community Association (ECA).

The editors and the ECA can accept no responsibility for the goods or services advertised in the magazine. Advertisements are included in good faith. The editors reserve the right to allow replies to letters/articles to be made in the same edition when appropriate.

The editors' decision is final.

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

Subscriptions

Elsenham News is available online on the ECA Website. Contact
elsenhamnews@hotmail.co.uk

Advertising

The costs are as follows:

	Single Insertion	Annual Cost (11 issues)
Quarter Page	£3.00	£25.00
Half Page	£7.00	£45.00
Inside Page	£12.00	£100.00
Back Page	Contact us	

Village organisations attract reduced rates for adverts depending on number of insertions required. Please contact us to discuss.

To place an advertisement:

If you have any queries, please email us. Please send your advert as Word or Publisher via email to:
elsenhamnews@hotmail.co.uk

Advertising Editor: TBA

Business Advertising

Cheques should be made payable to
"Elsenham Community Association".

Editorial Team:

**Gary Williams
Emma Bailey
Marion Giles
Patricia Davis
Anne White
Angie Wenlock**

Previous issues of Elsenham News are available on the ECA Website

www.ElsenhamCommunityAssociation.org.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Tree Festival St Mary's Church 10.30-5pm Sat 6 & Sun 7 December

Christmas Wreath Workshop Memorial Hall Sunday 7 December

VILLAGE CONTACTS

Airport Roadside Parking		0800 731 2385
Beavers	1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com	
Bowls Club	Therese Clear	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 (Chair)	Sue Waite	07956 899326
ECA (Secretary)	Chris Richardson	07940 465627
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 Rights of Way website	www.e-voice.org.uk/erowos/	
Friends of Elsenham School (FOES)	Louise Judd	foespta@hotmail.com
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		
www.elsenhamcommunityassociation.org.uk/hiring-elsenham-memorial-hall		
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
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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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