Elsenham News

St. Mary's Elsenham Fabric Fund present :

Christmas Tree Festival



In St. Mary's Church

December 5th - 6th

10.30 - 5.00

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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 Monday** of month 6.30pm 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
Dementia Friendly Afternoon **4th Wednesday** of month 2-3.30pm The Crown
Women's Institute **3rd Thursday** of month 7.45pm Memorial Hall
Church Lunch Club **2nd & 4th Friday** of month 12.30pm Memorial Hall
Elsenham Farmers Market **last Saturday** of month 12.30-2.30pm Village Hall

November 2026 diary

Sun	1	Sound Bath	Memorial Hall 6.30pm
Mon	2	Parish Council Meeting	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Tues	3	Henham & District Garden Society	Memorial Hall 2 for 2.30pm
Tues	3 & 17	Elsenham Community Choir	Village Hall 7pm
Sat	7 & 21	Bingo	Bowls & Social Club 7 for 7.30pm
Sat	7	Act of Remembrance	Memorial Garden 10.45am
Tues	10 & 24	Life Drawing	Village Hall 7.30pm
Wed	11	Act of Remembrance	Memorial Garden High Street 10.45am
Wed	11	History Society Meeting	Memorial Hall 7.45 for 8pm
Thur	12	Elsenham Community Association Meeting	Memorial Hall 7.30pm
Fri	13 & 27	Church Lunch Club	Memorial Hall 12.30pm
Sat	14	Tennis Club Quiz	Bowls & Social Club 7.30pm
Tues	17	UDC Help Hub	Memorial Hall 1.15 – 4.15pm
Thurs	19	Elsenham WI	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Mon	23	Elsenham Eagles	Bowls & Social Club 7.15 for 7.30pm
Sat	28	Christmas Fair	Elsenham Golf Club 12— 4pm
Sat	28	Farmers Market	Village Hall 12.30 – 2.30pm



Mobile Library

Every third Saturday stopping at Glebe End
9.30 to 10 am. Next visit date is 21 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)
Tuesday	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 (term-time)
	5.30 & 7pm	Slimming World	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
	9.30-10.45am	Buffy Playbus	Crocus Drive (see website)
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)
Saturday	8.15am-1pm	Tarte au Citroen	Playing Field
	8.45am-12pm	Youth boys & girls football	Playing Field
	9-11.15am	Forte Dance Class	Memorial Hall (term-time)
	8.45-9.30am	Little Kickers Mighty	Village Hall (term-time)
	9.35-10.20am	Little Kickers Junior	Village Hall (term-time)
	10.25-11.10am	Little Kickers Tots	Village Hall (term-time)



We are so excited about our **FESTIVE FARMERS MARKET** taking place on **SATURDAY 28th NOVEMBER**, from 12.30-2.30pm, in the Village/School 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 and beef, amazing cheeses, homemade jams and chutneys and your dogs will love you forevermore 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, freshly ground barista coffee (to enjoy in the hall or takeaway), a huge assortment of homemade cakes, savoury treats (the sausage rolls are to die for!!), environmentally friendly cleaning and personal care products and John will be there with his massive range of frozen fish, pastry dinners and sorbets!!

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 30th, 2027 at the usual time of 12.30-2.30pm.

The News Report

From The Editors



The nights are dark and the temperature is quickly dropping, so now is the time to start being more safety minded. We have a timely reminder from the Parish Council concerning e-bikes and scooters. Please read it carefully, it could have a few surprises for you.

On a brighter note, not long till Christmas now and we have the annual Tree Festival to look forward to (see front cover and page 27), but only after you've ordered your turkey (see page 6).

The Farmers Market will be have their festival of flavours at the end of the month, what a great opportunity to purchase some local produce to add to your Christmas menu.

Also, don't miss the Elsenham Community Choir. Dates and details on page 21.

This month we have most of our regulars with updates from their clubs, organisations or associations and we'll bring you their Christmas plans when details reach us.

However, don't forget to be safe on bonfire night, especially if you have your own fireworks planned. Alternatively, why not attend an organised event like the one at Golf World. Their events are always very well organised and you can find details on the last page of this month's edition.

Finally, well done to all those who attended the Macmillan Coffee Morning. So much money raised for such a deserving cause. See page 23 for more details.

We hope you have a safe November.



Contents:

Parish Council	7
Do you believe in ghosts?	9
Village History Society	11
Daisy May's Farm	13
Elsenham WI	15
The Aubrey Buxton Nature Reserve	17
Ray's Reflections	19
Community Choir	21
Newport and District Flower Club	23
Macmillan Coffee Morning	23
U3a	25
St Mary's Fabric Fund	27
Harmonaires	27
100 Parishes	29
Church Calendar	31
Bowls Club	33
Cricket Club	35
Parish Register	35
Elsenham Tennis Club	37
Book Review	41
Cookery Corner	43

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Elsenham Parish Council
By Fiona Gardiner, Clerk & RFO
parishclerk@elsenham-pc.gov.uk ☎ *07456 791727*
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As we end October, I would like to share a few updates from the Parish Council and bring some recent issues to your attention.

Playing Field and Teen Shelter

Unfortunately, we have experienced fly-tipping in the Playing Field car park this month. Fly-tipping is both unsightly and costly to deal with, and we would ask residents to help us keep our community spaces clean and welcoming. You can report fly tipping using this link: Report fly-tipping - Uttlesford District Council

We have also had damage to the Teen Shelter, with one panel currently removed for safety reasons. We appreciate that the shelter is an important facility for local young people, and we will keep residents updated about the plans for its repair.

Parish Council Update

We would like to say goodbye to Cllr Paul Jarvis and thank him for the time he has given to the Parish Council. Paul has also supported the work of both the Playing Field and Community Centre Committees, and we are grateful for his contribution to these important community facilities.

Paul's departure means that a vacancy has arisen on the Parish Council, creating an opportunity for another member of our community to get involved in local decision-making and help support Elsenham. Further details about the vacancy will be shared once the formal notice period has ended.

Keeping Our Community Connected

Thank you to everyone who takes the time to share feedback, raise concerns and support the work of the Parish Council. Your involvement helps us understand local priorities and continue working towards a welcoming, safe and thriving Elsenham.

As always, we welcome residents' comments and encourage everyone to take an interest in the issues that affect our village.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 2 November at 7.45pm in the Memorial Hall. All residents are welcome.



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Do you believe in ghosts?



You should, if you use an e-scooter or mini motorbike in ANY public place (roads, pavements, parks, woodland).

It's a criminal offence. **Bad things** could happen, including:

·Your e-scooter or motorbike could be **seized** by the police;

·You could be **fined**;

·You could be given a **Ghost Licence** (yes, really).
It means that whenever you apply for a driving licence in future, it will ALREADY have penalty points added;

·And that will mean an even **higher insurance premium.**

·If that isn't enough . . .

·**Parents or carers** can be liable for **fines and penalty points** on their own licences if they allow you to ride e-scooters or mini motorbikes illegally. They will not be covered by insurance.

Don't think you can escape being caught . . .

Essex Police have already acted on video, door cam and photo evidence supplied by the public of illegal use in our villages.

DON'T TEMPT THE GHOST!
It will catch you if it can.

Remember! e-scooters and mini motorbikes are legal ONLY on private land.

An educational reminder from Elsenham Parish Council
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Elsenham Village History Society
By Mike Rea, Secretary
evhs12@hotmail.co.uk
01279 813634
www.elsenham-history.co.uk



We were saddened to learn of the passing of our member Ian Beeston, coming so soon after the loss of his wife Jean it has been a double blow and our condolences go to the family.

Musing on my recent treatment at the hands of the NHS (very good), I started pondering the health services available to Elsenham residents in earlier times. One of these were District Nursing Associations (DNAs) that came into being towards the end of the 19th century. They were responsible for employing district nurses which meant paying their wages and finding them somewhere to live as well as paying other necessary expenses. As an aside, the Nurse's Bungalow in the High Street was built by our then local DNA.

At a time when the average wage of a working man was around a pound a week, private nursing care was beyond their means so the local associations often established provident schemes. People would join the association and pay a regular subscription in order to receive nursing care when the need arose. At the turn of the nineteenth century the suggested fee was one shilling (5p) per year for an individual or half a crown, 2s 6d (12½p) for a family, meaning a population of around 4,000 could support one nurse but under the provident schemes the subscriptions were easier to find. By the 1920s the suggested subscription was one penny (½p) per person per fortnight which the nurses themselves would collect. Those who were not subscribers would be charged 1s 6d (7½p) for each visit by a nurse. These schemes were very similar to insurance and similar schemes were already in use in other areas, examples included medical dispensaries and fire services.

In 1911 The National Insurance Act had become law paving the way for the welfare state, however it did not allow for universal free health care and other different systems evolved side by side with the nursing associations, the provident schemes remaining popular. These local associations were in the main affiliated to the Queen's Nursing Institute whose website provided much of this information. So, although we know more of the general background, we are still seeking detail on our own local association so if anyone reading this can help with more information, please get in touch.

Our next meeting falls on Armistice Day, 11th November. Whilst not at the eleventh hour it is fitting that local military historian Alan Taylor will be returning to tell us the "Story of the Uknown Warrior". So do join us on Wednesday 11th November at 8pm in the Memorial Hall as we look forward to an informative and entertaining evening.

As always all are welcome and visitors pay just £2.00. We look forward to seeing you there.

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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 again this year, but fear not…… the Santa Sleigh Train will be in action again and driven by Santa's 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 4.00pm.

See you soon!







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Elsenham Women's Institute

By Moira Jackson
☎ *01279 647351*

We seem to be racing to the end of 2026 at supersonic speed! The autumn weather is moving onto winter chills and thoughts turn to Christmas. This is the time of year when our WI gets really busy.

The big event in November is on the 7th when the village joins together to take part in the Act of Remembrance in the Memorial Garden. Refreshments for all then follow in the Memorial Hall. The tradition of our WI holding this event dates back to 2014 and we have been happy to provide it every year since. If you haven't been to either the service or come to the Memorial Hall after, please do this year. It is always very moving to see the village come together and remember those who gave their lives in the service of our country. We really hope to see you there.





November's meeting has the fabulous Fyfield Handbell Ringing Group who will start our seasonal celebrations in great style. This month's competition is something with the letter 'B' and we are meeting on Thursday November 19 at 7:45pm.

The final meeting of this year is on December 17 and is our Christmas Party.

As a member you get all our monthly meetings plus the opportunity to come to our many sub-group activities. We accept new or returning members throughout the year and you can be sure of a warm welcome – plus, if you are lucky, some delicious cake.

Details of our programme, events and activities can be found on Facebook and Instagram – search for Elsenham WI. Visitors are welcome to our monthly meetings and we meet at 7:45pm on the third Thursday of the month in the Memorial Hall.

Elsenham WI – There's a lot going on!

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The Aubrey Buxton Nature Reserve

By John Welham, Warden
communications@essexwt.org.uk

Essex Wildlife Trust

Our work parties are once again in full swing, meeting every Tuesday and Thursday morning at one of the eight wildlife reserves maintained by our Uttlesford group. We move between the reserves working as a group to carry out the work required to keep these reserves in good condition. At the time of writing much of our time is engaged in cutting our meadow areas and removing the cut material. By doing this we help to keep the soil nutrient poor, which restrains the growth of grasses and promotes the ability of wildflowers to compete. The drought of this summer has made our task a little easier as the mass of cut material to be removed is well down on last year.

As soon as we have finished in the meadows, we will be working in the woods throughout the winter, coppicing and other tree management work, tree planting and a variety of other activities. As we work in the reserves, we always find time to appreciate nature and to share any sightings or discoveries made.

If you are interested in joining as a volunteer or learning more about wildlife in North West Essex please visit our website:

https://www.uttlesford-wildlife.org.uk/





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Ray's Reflections



Remember 2014?

As we enjoyed the summer weather it sometimes seems impossible to imagine the times when we saw lots of rain. If you were a resident of Elsenham in 2014 perhaps you have memories of February that year. Our village had hours of torrential rain which caused a number of problems as the roads were flooded in several places. Station Road was badly affected and some motorists sustained considerable damage to their cars as they attempted to drive through the deep water.

The pictures show just how bad it was around the Railway Station.

With climate change, who knows what is just around the corner.





Ray Franklin

GARDEN HINT

Beware the dreaded honey fungus. Check unwell looking trees and shrubs for sheets of white fungus with a strong mushroom smell, between bark and wood at the stem base. Dig out affected plants and roots promptly, then destroy.

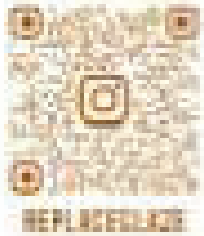
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ELSENHAM COMMUNITY CHOIR

We are delighted to announce that we will performing our Christmas Choral Extravaganza
on
Saturday December 5 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!!!

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Newport and District Flower Club

By Sandra Honour, Progamme Secretary
ugleybunchflowerclub@gmail.com *Ugley Bunch Flower Club*



By the time we receive this publication we will be well into Autumn, nights having drawn in and fast heading towards Christmas! We can, however, take a moment to remember our wonderful September demonstration by Lorraine Gagen entitled 'Into the Wardrobe'. We are lucky enough to have Lorraine, a qualified NAFAS demonstrator, as a member of our club and she lit up our evening with the most beautiful and vibrant arrangements. We all know how expensive flowers are these days and it is becoming particularly difficult for demonstrators to work within flower club budgets. Lorraine, however, was very careful sourcing her blooms, using not only those from the high street and her own garden and allotment but from our local flower farms. This enabled her to showcase the most glorious flowers not often found in florists and supermarkets.

As mentioned last month, November 18 will be our last club meeting and we are welcoming Rachael Borenkova with her Christmas title of 'A Floral Concert'. Extra special refreshments will be provided in addition to tea and coffee so please come and join us. We would love to see you there.

We meet every third Wednesday of the month with a 7pm for 7.30pm start at the Ugley Village Hall, Cambridge Road, CM22 6HR.



To everyone who supported our village Macmillan Coffee Morning, thank you SO much. It was lovely to see so many of you and this together weather all contributed to such 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, chatting with friends old and new. What more could you want?

We had a great team that pulled this whole event together as usual – thank you to you ALL; you know who you are. Of course, we mustn't forget to thank the Bowls Club that kindly allowed us to hold our event in their super club house each year and contribute the contents of their Macmillan charity box too! We also must thank everyone that made a scrummy cake, donated a super raffle prize or gave us a generous financial donation and it is thanks to everyone involved that we raised over **£1,600 this year**……. incredible for two hours!

This is a MASSIVE amount of money, and it will help some of those affected by cancer, so give yourself 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 the date for next year's Coffee Morning – **FRIDAY 24th SEPTEMBER 2027** is the day, see you there!!

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By Julia Cook
✉ *standstedu3a@gmail.com*

The Gardening group had chance to admire the diligent work done by silent contributors over the centuries as they visited Chelsea Physic Garden, London's oldest botanic garden established in 1673! This living classroom of plants alongside seed banks and a catalogue of thousands of plants is used to inform modern research as well as preserving ancient wisdom for generations to come.

Challenged as we are by the media chipping away at our optimism, it was an unexpected antidote to listen to Andy Strange's talk on the RAF's Special Operations Executive. From his fund of knowledge he gave a highly convincing account of their extraordinary Second World War efforts to resist Nazism. Those in this movement did not look for renown or praise but worked tirelessly and often in secret even from those they were closest to. It was heartening to hear about their brave, understated activities in contrast to the attention-seeking of our own age. Using Lysander aircraft, single engine planes, clandestine flights into enemy-occupied Europe took place frequently to unload agents and weapons or pick up escaping personnel. Flights were navigated by map and compass, not radio and required incredible flying skills to land carefully in out-of-the-way places before the enemy could respond. The pilots were not the only people putting their lives at risk. Personnel carried into enemy territory had instantly to blend in and not draw attention to themselves as they set about the information-gathering or spying missions.Women proved especially successful as operatives and flew into danger frequently.

Ahead there are more fascinating u3a talks and events to look forward to, including Cambridge Lecturer Dr Christine Corton talking about Dickens' life with reference particularly to David Copperfield.Don't forget there are also challenging and fun classes being run every day by the u3a as well. All information is set out on the web site or by phoning 07874 385541.

Elsenham Tennis Club

Full article on page 37

Quiz Night – back by popular demand – Saturday, 14 November 2026, 7.30 for 8pm at the Bowls Club. With our quiz master Trevor of course, plus ploughman's supper, raffle, licensed bar. £9 per brain and 8 people per table please. To book, please email mail@elsenhamtennisclub.co.uk.

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St Mary's Fabric Fund Elsenham
Registered charity Number 1052884

By David Hill

☎ *01279 812397*



It is the first week of Advent. Picture the scene. St. Mary's Church, Elsenham. A loaded trailer is drawn up outside the church. Shadowy figures emerge from the church and converge on the trailer. Boards are lifted out of the trailer, and silently carried into the church, laid on the pews and bolted together. Yards of blue fabric magically appear and are laid over the boards. Then Christmas trees start to appear, on the floor, on the boards, on the pulpit, in the Chancel, in front of the Lord's Table, even at the top of the secret stairs that once led to the balcony in front of the Chancel arch. Switches are turned on. Lights are activated. The smell of mulled wine and mince pies drifts up from St. Mary's Rooms. Yes! The Christmas Tree Festival is launched.

OK, I might have got a bit carried away there. I'll rewrite it. We will be preparing for the Christmas Tree Festival, starting on Sunday 29th November when we will set up the boards to carry the trees. On the Thursday and Friday (3/4 December) those people providing Christmas trees – any shape, size, colour, type etc, as you wish – will assemble them, leading up to the start of the festival on Dec 5th. We will need help in setting up the boards and preparing the church and with actually running the festival (refreshments, stewarding, car parking etc.). If you can help, and for further information, please contact Jill (01279 812397) or Elizabeth (01279 813543).

It is still not too late to book a tree into the festival. The tree can be provided by an individual, maybe to commemorate a person or memory, a company to promote their business – limited promotional material is permitted – or just someone who likes Christmas trees. Please contact Jill (above) for any further information.

I hope all that makes sense, and please come along to see the imaginative trees that people have worked to create – it really is a wonderful experience.

THE Harmonaires CHOIR

Dreams: an Autumn Recital Concert
Saturday 21st November, 3.30pm
St John's Church, Stansted CM24 8JP

Join The Harmonaires for an autumn afternoon of outstanding music at St John's Church, Stansted, on Saturday 21st November at 3.30pm. On the theme of Dreams, expect a varied programme of exceptional beauty. The concert celebrates uplifting music by Sarah Quartel, Deborah Scroggins, Gjeilo and Laurisden through to popular classics by The Cranberries and Alex Warren arrangements for Voces8, along with contemporary choral masterpieces.

Tickets available online and on the door. £10 adults, children/students free. *www.theharmonaireschoir.com*

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Support



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2026 Dates

20 October
17 November
15 December

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Elsenham Memorial Hall
Elsenham Playing Field
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The Hundred Parishes

By Ken McDonald, Secretary

www.hundredparishes.org.uk



Whilst walking, cycling or driving in our beautiful and mainly rural area you will come across a variety of crops at various stages of their life cycle. One of these is sugar beet, a plant that is harvested during the colder months, from September to March.

When my wife and I were checking out one of The Hundred Parishes quiet lane walks last winter, we came across great mounds of root vegetables. The farmer explained that they were recently-harvested sugar beets that were about to be transported to the local sugar beet factory in Bury St Edmunds, around 35 miles away.

Bury St Edmunds is one of just four UK processing plants, all in the East of England and run by British Sugar. In total, they produce over a million tonnes of sugar each year, around half of the UK's consumption (the rest is imported).

Sugar beet is sown in spring and harvested in autumn and winter. Sugar in the form of sucrose is produced by photosynthesis in the leaves and is stored in the root. An average mature root weighs about a kilogram or 2 pounds. About twenty percent of this is turned into sugar.

The sugar content of the beet deteriorates if it freezes so the farmer must judge when best to harvest and then get the beet to the factory as quickly as possible. The harvesting process first removes the leaves and then lifts the beets from the ground into a truck driving beside the harvester. The truck deposits the beets into giant heaps.

On the day we watched the operation, the already-harvested beet was being loaded onto a fleet of large lorries for transport to Bury. Once in the factory, the beet is washed and processed to extract the sugar. The residue pulp is turned into animal feed.







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.

Thought for the month *by Pete Tibbott*

It was Sunday 21 June 1942. Winston Churchill and his chiefs of staff were in the Oval Office, meeting Franklin D Roosevelt and his chiefs to plan the next stages of the war. Churchill was handed a telegram informing him that the city of Tobruk, in North Africa, had fallen. The Allies were forced to retreat and the Axis powers seemed to grow ever stronger.

Just the year before, Churchill had seen for himself the "horror and desolation" of bombed Plymouth, which caused him to slip into one of his famous 'black dog' depressions.

So the news of Tobruk hung heavy in the air and left the Oval Office stunned.
But the silence was eventually broken by Roosevelt, in six famous monosyllabic words:

"What can we do to help?"

An American armoured division was shipped off immediately, while plans were firmed up for a full-scale invasion for the liberation of North Africa in the autumn of 1942 (with its completion the following spring).

The idea of being a 'helper' might seem a bit weak or subservient. I think back to when I used to be my dad's 'helper' while he was fixing a shed roof or putting up shelves: usually me 'helping' meant holding the bottom of a ladder or passing up drill bits.

But in the Bible, a 'helper' is usually called upon because they are far stronger than the one in need. Perhaps that's why this account of Churchill and Roosevelt struck a chord when I read it recently. Churchill was at his wits' end, but the Americans had incredible power that was yet to be unleashed fully.

God is also described throughout the Old Testament as his people's 'helper':

"There is none like God… who rides through the heavens to your help" (Deuteronomy 33:26)

"We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield" (Psalm 33:20)

"The LORD is with me; he is my helper" (Psalm 118:7)

The root of that Hebrew word is ezer, from which we get names like Ezra (helper) and Ezri (my help). It's an important truth to hold onto, especially when we're struck with bad news or stung by the pains of a broken world.

The God who made us, who hung the moon and stars, is for us. He is mighty to save, quick to comfort, ready to help. He isn't reluctant to assist, nor is he weak, but prepared to use his inexhaustible power to be our helper.

The book of Hebrews in the New Testament speaks of Jesus Christ as our mediator. He was his Father's Plan-A to rescue the world from sin and death, so that we might be able to approach him confidently to ask his help in our times of need (Hebrews 4:16).

This month we remember those who, out of great courage, gave their lives to serve their country. So also we remember the One who is always ready graciously to help us now.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.



CHURCH EVENTS IN OUR VILLAGES NOVEMBER

Church Services

Sunday 1st November

10:30 All Together All Age Service,
Elsenham Village (School) Hall
18:00 Sunday@6, Henham Church

Sunday 8th November
Remembrance Services

08:45 Prayer Book Morning Prayer
Elsenham Church
10:15 Morning Service, Ugley Church
10:30 Morning Praise Service
Elsenham Village (School) Hall
10:45 Act of Remembrance,
Henham War Memorial
18:00 Sunday@6, Henham Church

Sunday 15th November

08:45 Prayer Book Holy Communion,
Elsenham Church
10:00 Holy Communion, Ugley Church
10:30 Morning Praise Service,
Elsenham Village (School) Hall
18:00 Sunday@6, Henham Church

Sunday 22nd November

08:45 Prayer Book Morning Prayer,
Elsenham Church
10:00 Morning Service, Ugley Church
10:30 Morning Praise, Henham Church
18:00 Sunday@6 HC, Henham Church

Sunday 29th November

08:45 Prayer Book Morning Prayer,
Elsenham Church
10:00 Morning Service, Ugley Church
10:30 Morning Praise Service,
Elsenham Village (School) Hall
18:00 Sunday@6, Henham Church

Acts of Remembrance
Saturday 7 November, 10:45am
Wednesday 11 November, 10:45am,
Armistice Day Service
Both at Elsenham Memorial Garden

Getting Ready for Christmas
Saturday 28 November 10am-12 noon
A fun, festive morning for all the family
of making Christmassy crafts.
Henham Church

Regular Services

SUNDAYS:

Elsenham & Henham Sunday Club (Reception-Y5)
Leave Morning Praise Service, 10.30am
Sundays: 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th

Pathfinders (Y6-Y9)
Henham Church 6.00pm - leave from service to meet in the New Church Hall, Henham.
Sundays: 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th

Crammin' (Y10-Y13)
Henham Church 6.00pm – leave from service to meet in the New Church Hall, Henham.
Sundays: 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th

MID-WEEK AND SATURDAY:

Start the Week with Prayer
Old Frank's, Elsenham 9.30am
Mondays: 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th

Seekers After School Bible Club
(Y3-Y4) Old Frank's 3.20pm Mondays: 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th

Tuesday Club, Henham Church
1-4pm. For anyone of retirement age or wanting company. Tuesdays: 3rd
(1st Tuesday of each month)

Christian Play (Y1-Y2)
Rowan House, Elsenham 3.15pm Tuesdays: 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th

Explorers (Y4-Y6)
New Church Hall, Henham 3.30pm Wednesdays: 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th

Little Fishes Pre-School Group
New Church Hall, Henham 9.15am
Thursdays: 5th,12th, 19th & 26th

Little Fishes Pre-School Group
Elsenham Memorial Hall 10.00am
Fridays: 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th

Church Lunch Club
Elsenham Memorial Hall 12.30pm
Fridays: (2nd & 4th Friday of the month): 13th & 27th

For information on all these events, please contact
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Elsenham Bowls and Social Club

By David Thomas

www.elsenhambc.org.uk

With the outdoor bowling season over, our bowlers are either having a well-deserved rest or have moved indoors for the winter and are busily adjusting to the different conditions of indoor bowls.

The gardeners amongst you will appreciate the work needed to get gardens ready for the winter and our green is no exception. Having served us well over the summer and being stressed by the demanding cultivation programme and this year's intense weather, the green is now undergoing its annual renovation. We look forward to the refreshed green for next year's season.

Our Crib teams have got off to a good start with both A and B teams winning their first matches. Elsenham A have played 2 and won 2 matches and Elsenham B have played 3 and won 3 matches and are both currently top of their leagues. Well done to all our players.

The club Christmas dinner and dance is on December 12. This is expected to be an entertaining event to round off the year with music by the duo Me and Him, back by popular demand. To make sure you have reserved your place please book your tickets and your menu options from the club bar or by calling Trevor on 07445 437437.

Bingo sessions at the club are on November 7 and 21 and December 5 and 19. Sessions are at 7:00pm for a 7:30 start. Darts sessions run on a Thursday evening throughout the year from 7:00pm.

Please join us for our social evenings all year round from 7pm on a Friday - join us for a chat and a drink.

We would like to make readers aware that we now have some sponsorship and corporate day opportunities for local companies and organisation who would like to promote their businesses or activities. Please get in touch for more information.

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





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Stansted Hall & Elsenham Cricket Club

By David Brown
☎ *01279 812397*
✉ *david1.r.brown@gmail.com*

More success for the club. Having been crowned champions of the Herts & Essex Border League (HEBL) Division 1, individual awards have been announced. Zaheer Nazir won most wickets taken (with 26 wickets). In the 2nd XI (Division 3) other individual awards were won. William Zobel 12 wicketkeeping dismissals, Duncan Easley highest individual score (153 not out), and finally Oliver Saunders for the U18 player of the year.

On top of these individual awards the 2nd XI won the Division 3 'Fair Play' award. These awards will be presented at the HEBL dinner late in October.

A club Presentation will be held on November 13 and the AGM will take place on November 24. The Annual General Knowledge Quiz will be held on January 31st and winter nets will begin on February 18.

If you would like any information about the club please contact me as detailed above.

From the Parish Registers

Wedding:
At Henham Church on 12 September 2026, Emma Hooton and Edward Brooks.

Funeral:
On 5 October 2026 at Henham Church followed by Cam Valley Crematorium, Pearl Peggy Pledger, aged 82 years, formerly of Vernon's Close, Henham.

Burial of Ashes:
On 17 September 2026 in Elsenham Churchyard, Carol Pountain.

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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Elsenham Tennis Club

By Petra Studholme

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✉ *mail@elsenhamtennisclub.co.uk* 💻 *https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/ElsenhamTennisClub*

Quiz Night – back by popular demand – Saturday, 14 November 2026, 7.30 for 8pm at the Bowls Club. With our quiz master Trevor of course, plus ploughman's supper, raffle, licensed bar. £9 per brain and 8 people per table please. To book, please email mail@elsenhamtennisclub.co.uk.

Half-price membership from 1 October 2026 to 31 March 2027

We are offering half-price on all our subscriptions so full membership would be only £35, senior £25 and under 18s £10. Other membership packages are also available for couples and the whole family. You can also pay monthly. 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.If you want to find out more about Elsenham Tennis Club, go to our website or find us on Facebook.

50 Years of ETC Celebrations

What a wonderful day we had! We would like to extend a huge thank you to all our members who contributed to making it so special. In particular, we want to thank Linda for her incredible cake, and Hussain, who travelled all the way from Hampshire to join us. We were delighted to welcome local council and Parish Council representatives, alongside several of our founder and current former members. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed hearing Dave Verlander share the fascinating history of our club. Finally, a big thank you goes to Dave and Mike for putting together the wonderful photo gallery.







Club Tournament

All round robin matches have been played and we are preparing for our finals. Watch this space.

Club Facilities - Maintenance

We are very lucky to have a dedicated maintenance team for our courts, hut and compound. In addition to sprucing up the hut, the courts have been weeded, trees pruned, flower beds attended to as well as new nets, new banners. We would also like to thank our members who distributed our ETC flyers throughout the village to reach new Elsenham tennis enthusiasts.

Hire our courts – open to non-members

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



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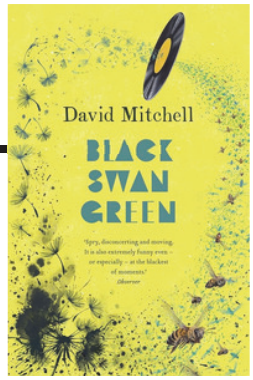
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M11 Business Link, Parsonage Lane,

Black Swan Green by David Mitchell

Reviewed by Marion Giles for Elsenham Book Group



'January, 1982. Thirteen-year-old Jason Taylor - covert stammerer and reluctant poet - anticipates a stultifying year in his backwater English village. But he hasn't reckoned with bullies, simmering family discord, the Falklands War, a threatened gypsy invasion and those mysterious entities known as girls. Charting thirteen months in the black hole between childhood and adolescence, this is a captivating novel, wry, painful and vibrant with the stuff of life. ' So says the blurb on the back of the book.

Luminously beautiful *The Times*

The Amazon AI says: Customers find this book a brilliant story that resonates as a coming-of-age tale, bringing up memories of their own childhood and capturing the 80s era. The writing style is poetic, and customers laugh out loud in places while appreciating its bittersweet humour. They praise the author's ability to get into the head of an adolescent boy, with one review noting how it captures the internal world of a teen exquisitely.

This was the choice of the book group this month and was generally enjoyed.
In celebrating our 20th year in 2022, we decided that each October, on our anniversary, we would read a prize award nominated book from 20 years previously. David Mitchell has been long-listed for the Booker prize four times as he was for this one in 2006. Some of our members were concerned that this would be like his other books: fantasy, time travelling or convoluted stories within stories. However, this book is written as a linear narration set in 1982.

If you were around in the 80s you would be transported back as David Mitchell totally captures that time with appropriate cultural references, food, cars, music. Mitchell does an excellent job of getting into the head of an adolescent boy – the trivial obsessions that seem so important, the painful desire to fit in and the not quite understanding of the nuances and undercurrents of the adult world.

Thirteen-year-old Jason Taylor lives with his parents and older sister in in a small village near Worcester. He is bullied for a speech impediment, his sister is leaving for university and his parents' marriage is in a slow disintegration, all set against the backdrop of the Falklands War. Expect some metaphors reflecting the conflict and exploration of the ramifications of a local soldier who lost his life when his ship was bombed plus the general hostilities to a proposed gypsy site.

Jason names different aspects of his own personality: "Hangman" is his stammer; "Maggot" is his Inner Coward; "Unborn Twin" is his Inner Rebel which perfectly illustrates the inner monologue of an articulate and self-aware teenager. We all believed that Jason would be OK as a young man. It is not a memoir but David Mitchell mirrors his upbringing and blends some truths with fiction.

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Cookery Corner

By Sue Johnson
☎01279 812704



This recipe is one of my favourites from the marvellous Mary Berry. Served as a one-pot, it's a complete main course, very tasty served with green vegetables or on its own.

SAUSAGE AND RED PEPPER HOT POT (serves 4)

1 tablespoon sunflower oil
8 spicy pork sausages
4 rashers of smoked bacon, finely chopped
1 onion, sliced
1 red pepper, de-seeded and cut into large pieces
1 large carrot, diced into small pieces
1 garlic clove, crushed
300ml (10fl oz) chicken stock
400g (14oz) can chopped tomatoes
2 tablespoons sun-dried tomato paste
2 fresh thyme sprigs
250g (9oz) baby new potatoes, skin on, thinly sliced into discs

You will need a large, deep-frying pan or sauté pan with a lid or a flameproof casserole dish. Heat the oil in the pan over a high heat. Add the sausages and fry them until browned on all sides then set them aside. Add the bacon and fry for a few minutes until crisp, then set aside.

Add the onion, pepper, carrot and garlic to the pan and fry for 5 minutes over a high heat. Pour in the stock, tomatoes and tomato paste, then add the thyme sprigs. Bring to the boil. Add the potatoes and season.

Turn the heat down to a simmer and return the bacon and sausages to the pan. Cover and simmer on the hob for about 20 minutes. Remove the lid and continue to simmer for another 10 minutes until the sauce has reduced a little and the sausages are cooked and the vegetables tender. Serve in bowls with green vegetables.

CHEF'S RECOMMENDATIONS: This can be made up to 8 hours ahead. Bring to the boil to reheat. A good way of using up your own homegrown tomatoes, just chopped up, instead of the tinned. This hot pot freezes very well.

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 Annual	**Cost Insertion** (11 issues)
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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".

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Previous issues of Elsenham News are available on the ECA Website

www.ElsenhamCommunityAssociation.org.uk

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