

Elsenham News

This year's competition results are in! See pages 40 and 41



Two local valuable community organisations could do with your help. See pages 21 and 29

Our local MP has been in touch and wanted to give us her views on that car park! See pages 19 and 21



elsenhamsnews@hotmail.co.uk

October 2026

Elsenham Village Regular Monthly or Quarterly Activities

Parish Council 1st **Monday** of month 7.45pm (excl. Bank Holidays) Memorial Hall
 Natter Night 2nd **Monday** of month 7.30pm The Crown
 Elsenham EAGLES 4th **Monday** of month 7.30-9pm 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
 UDC Help Hub 3rd **Tuesday** of month 1.45-4.15pm Memorial Hall
 Life Drawing 2nd and 4th **Tuesday** of month 7.30-9.30pm Village Hall
 Village History Society 2nd **Wednesday** of month quarterly 7.45pm Memorial Hall
 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

October 2026 diary

Mon 5	Parish Council Meeting	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Tues 6	Henham & District Garden Soc.	Memorial Hall 2 for 2.30pm
Tues 6 & 20	Elsenham Community Choir	Village Hall 7pm
Fri 9 & 23	Church Lunch Club	Memorial Hall 12.30pm
Sat 10 & 24	Bingo	Bowls & Social Club 7 for 7.30pm
Tues 12	Natter Night	The Crown 6.30pm
Tues 13 & 27	Life Drawing	Village Hall 7.30pm
Wed 14	District Councillors' Surgery	Orwell House, Station Road Elsenham 6pm
Thurs 15	Elsenham WI	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Tues 20	UDC Help Hub	Memorial Hall 1.15-4.15pm
Thurs 22	Flower Seed Collective	Memorial Hall 7-8pm
Sat 24	Avril's Soup Café	Memorial Hall 12.30-2.30pm
Mon 26	Elsenham Eagles	Bowls & Social Club 7.15/7.30pm
Sat 31	Farmers Market	Village Hall 12.30 – 2.30pm



Mobile Library
Every third Saturday stopping at Glebe End

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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
Thursday	9.30-10.45am	Buffy Playbus	Crocus Drive (see website)
	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)

OSCA News

***One of your local facilities
available for hire***



For those people who do not know Henham we would like to introduce you to OSCA, The Old School Community Association on Crow Street which is available for hire. We have a library, a main hall and a back room.

OSCA is perfect for parties, the library proving to be a great place, especially for older members of the family, to escape for a little peace and quiet. The kitchen has an oven, fridge, and microwave. There is also ample off-street parking.

We are a charity and hold an annual Quiz and Book Sale to supplement our income.

Currently patchwork, dancing, Pilates classes, General meetings and workshops are held here.

Charges for villagers are based on 3 sessions a day - morning, afternoon and evening at a cost of £20 per session on weekdays, and £25 at weekends, except for Saturday evening which costs £60.

For bookings or any enquiries please call Judy Hughes on ☎ 07752 292479.





We don't often get a request from our local MP to share their views on a matter pertinent just to us 'locals', so it was a warmly welcomed surprise to get one from Rt. Hon Kemi Badenoch. We are more than happy to publish her thoughts on that pesky car park.

We hope that in the future when other bigger issues come to cause just as much local annoyance, we will get the attention we deserve. One such issue looming on the horizon is a multi-storey car park and more industrial units at the train station. We can only imagine what the impact will be.

Meanwhile, village life continues and all the local organisations and clubs vie for our attention. We would like to highlight though the call for volunteers for Citizens Advice and St Clare Hospice (pages 21 and 29 respectively). Please do help if you can, they would be very grateful.

The winners of this year's Elsenham Flower Show Society competition have been released and can be found on pages 40 and 41. This annual event is truly a part of the village calendar and we hope it continues to thrive.

With such a wide range of social and sporting organisations available locally - everything from the history society to the bowls club - there is always something for Elsenham residents to get involved with.

If you want to spread the word about your organisation or activity, please email the editors and we will gladly do all we can to help promote you.

The Editorial Team
Elsenham News

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Elsenham Community Speed Watch team continues to undertake speed monitoring within the parish and provide a valuable community-led contribution towards road safety. Between April 17 and August 28, 43 sessions were held, 763 vehicles were logged and the average speed was 37 mph (top speed 52mph in 30mph zone).

The **parish notice boards** are currently receiving some **general maintenance and TLC** to ensure they remain in good condition and continue to provide residents with a useful source of local information. You may have noticed the notice board by the school has been taken down for some general maintenance. It will be back in position soon and plans are underway to replace the notice board by the station.

A polite reminder to those with dogs that they are not permitted to enter the playing field area beyond the gates at either entrance. The Playing Field Committee have requested some new 'No Dogs' signs for the playing field which are due to be installed soon and will hopefully make this clearer.

A meeting took place at **Tye Green on August 27** between councillors and residents to discuss concerns regarding drainage on the Green.

Essential tree works have been carried out on the Spinney, and a few more dead ash trees will be felled in the next few weeks.

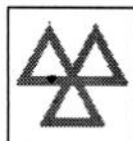
In October I will begin my study towards the CiLCA qualification which I very much look forward to.

The Finance committee continue to review and prepare for the completion of the new pavillion and pitch on Crocus Drive, Elsenham which will be the new home of EYFC. We have also made some progress with the build of the Community Centre at Southfield Close. A meeting has been arranged with architects to discuss the initial plans for the build.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 5 October at 7.45pm in the Memorial Hall. All residents are welcome.

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DEVELOPMENT DEVELOPMENTS

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



Off Hall Road, Vistry, otherwise Bovis Homes, continue with their development, indifferent to seemingly credible reports that the company is experiencing financial difficulties. New residents have moved into about 100 of the scheduled 130 homes; the remaining dwellings are all sold and are expected to be occupied by Christmas, with perhaps a handful in the new year.

The restored public footpath through the estate is now available. The signage is not in place, so here is a helpful guide. Just over the pedestrian railway crossing at Fullers End, turn left along the narrow, dark and damp footpath - it is the last place in the village to dry out. Proceed across a small paddock, past the quietly decaying dumped trailers on your left and through an ancient gate. Continue forward on a new straight footpath, which is curiously unavailable to the residents on the left through a continuous knee rail. The steep area on the right, down to the brook, is due to be 'landscaped', although the plans are notably vague as to the details.

Following the long straight stretch, access to the right is now available down steep steps to the bridge over Stansted Brook and the footpaths beyond. Otherwise, the path bears to the left, keeping to the left of the 'central green corridor', which follows the line of the well-established hedge and the adjacent post and rail wooden fence. Bear right at the end to emerge on Hall Road. The green corridor was included in the outline application approved way back in 2013, but it was deemed inadequate in three subsequent rejected detailed applications. Eventually the developers started again and received full approval in 2022. The long delay explains why this development is far behind the two others which were proposed originally at about the same time, Isabel Drive and Franklin Drive, one on each side of Stansted Road.

Close to Hall Road, the fenced-off area to the north is adjacent to Elsenham Primary School, and is to be made available to Essex County Council for educational purposes. The estate as a whole is reasonably attractive, with a generally pleasing effort to vary the façades. There will be a LEAP (Locally Equipped Area of Play), near to the junction at the end of the new straight stretch, but there is little information as to what will be included, and no signs of construction - play areas are usually the last of developers' worries.

Followers of horse-racing won't need to be told that the roads are named in memory of the exploits of Golden Miller, buried at Elsenham Stud. In the thirties, he won the Cheltenham Gold Cup a record five times, and is the only horse to have won the Cheltenham Gold Cup and the Grand National in the same year. His owner, Dorothy Paget (as in Paget Court) was one of the great English eccentrics, notorious for ringing up her trainers in the middle of the night in order to harangue them.

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ELSENHAM VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

By Mike Rea, Secretary ☎ 813634

✉ evhs12@hotmail.co.uk

🌐 www.elsenham-history.co.uk



As our village grows and we welcome new residents I thought it might be appropriate to tell you a bit about the background to our society. It started as many things do, around a drink or two and straight away seemed like an excellent idea. Unlike many excellent ideas that start this way, it has proved to be exactly that. We realised that a few individuals had spent a lot of time finding out about the village we all call home but we knew that there was still a need to collect and record as much as we could about the village - about our predecessors who laid the foundations of the village; about the people who spent all their lives here and are no longer with us; about those who were born and bred here and can still tell us fascinating stories about their lives here; and about later generations who all have a role to play and have contributed to the way we live here today. That was in 2010 and the society has grown since then.

A large amount of information has been collected about the village and its past in the intervening sixteen years, most of which can be found on our website (address above), a true font of all knowledge for things Elsenham. Please have a look, it will be well worth your time.

We run four meetings a year and to give you a flavour of our speakers and subjects covered the programme for the next year is shown below.

November 11	Alan Taylor - "The Unknown Warrior"
March 10 2027	Malcolm White - "Saffron Walden Alms Houses"
June 9 2027	Martin Foskett - "Elsenham Under Siege"
September 8 2027	Mark Cook - "Policing the Met Part 2"

Membership costs are very reasonable and having stayed the same since our launch we have decided on a modest increase next year to £7.50.

Our next meeting falls on Armistice Day, November 11. 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 Unknown Warrior". So do join us on November 11 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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Things are getting very spooky down on our farm in readiness for our

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- Halloween Train
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Please note that we are still open every day and our lovely farm animals and their babies always look forward to seeing you and don't forget our other exciting farm attractions.

Your coming to the Farm is vital to our survival, so please do support us in any way you can. We also ALWAYS need help running these events, so if you would like to get involved, we would LOVE to hear from you! Thanks so much.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for all the latest farm news and updates.

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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We all wanted rain and rain is definitely what we all got! I love autumn with all its colour and lovely rich smells of apples and cinnamon and back to comfort food!

Some of our members were at an excellent Literary Lunch at Hunters Meet, hosted by the Federation of Essex WIs. WIs from all over Essex enjoyed hearing Cambridge author Alison Bruce talk about how she researches and plans her books and the ups and downs of being an author. Her Cambridge Series of detective novels featuring D.I. Gary Goodhew is excellent and well worth a read.

Our Natter Nights continue at The Crown Pub on the second Monday of each month from 6.30pm. This is open to all so if you would like help with a craft or learn to knit or crochet from scratch please do come along, plus lively conversation is guaranteed!

October's meeting is the long awaited topic of The Essex Witch Trials with Peggy Griffin, perfectly timed with Halloween fast approaching. The competition is something beginning with 'E'.



Alison Bruce (centre) with Moyra Jackson (right) and Gill Hathaway (left)

Our meetings over the last two months of the year are:

November 19 – Fyfield Handbell Ringing Group

December 17 – 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 really lucky, some delicious cake.

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 – an update for residents

You may be aware that the Government has provided an update on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Essex. Following updated legal advice, the proposal for a new authority comprising Uttlesford, Epping Forest and Harlow councils will no longer proceed. The Government has also confirmed that local elections in May 2027 will take place on the existing council boundaries while the review continues.

Whilst we welcome the clarity, we are very disappointed that this decision has come so late in the process. **We did not choose to reorganise. We were directed to do so by Government, and once that decision was made, we worked hard to make the strongest possible case for our residents and communities.**

Our Members and staff worked incredibly hard to achieve the best possible outcome. We are proud of the work undertaken and the commitment shown throughout what has been an extremely challenging and uncertain process. It is therefore deeply frustrating to now see so much of that work effectively set aside. We are particularly disappointed at the considerable amount of time, public money and staff resources that have been spent on a process based on decisions that, at the time, appeared clear and firmly established.

This prolonged uncertainty has also been damaging to local government and, importantly, to the communities we serve. Councils need stability and certainty to plan effectively, manage resources responsibly and focus on delivering services for residents. We sincerely hope that any future decisions on reorganisation are made with greater clarity and certainty, and that local communities and councils are properly considered throughout the process.

We have been informed that the Government remains committed to Reorganisation and Devolution, and that this announcement forms part of a wider review. We will continue to monitor developments and make sure that the interests and voices of our residents remain at the forefront of any future discussions. For now, our focus remains on continuing to deliver for our residents and ensuring that local voices remain at the heart of decisions affecting our communities.

Keeping local government local.

Our next surgery will be held on October 14 at 6pm at Orwell House, Station Road, Elsenham. If you have concerns or questions about LGR, local services or any other matter affecting our community, please come along and speak to us.

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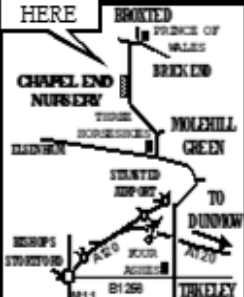
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Unauthorised Car Park Operation

Many residents have been in contact to share your frustrations regarding the illegal airport car park that is operating at New Farm Elsenham.

Uttlesford District Council served an enforcement notice; however, the operator of the car park appealed against the notice in September 2025. The case is now with the Planning Inspectorate, which is not expected to reach a decision until the end of this year.

This is completely unacceptable. I have written to Uttlesford District Council, pressing them to use every available power to prevent further expansion and protect residents, and written to the Planning Inspectorate demanding that they prioritise this appeal.

I have been working closely with your Essex County Councillor for Stansted, Councillor Ray Gooding.

Residents are having to endure increased traffic and endless disruption. They deserve better than this and they should not be forced to live indefinitely with the consequences of this unauthorised development because the system fails to enforce the rules.

Earlier this month, I wrote again to Uttlesford District Council to seek precise answers about the action it was taking while the appeal remained outstanding.

The Council has confirmed that the airport parking operation remains in breach of planning control. It also confirmed that it considered serving a Stop Notice but decided not to do so, in part because of concerns about vehicles being displaced onto surrounding roads or other unauthorised sites.

It is disappointing that same enforcement powers such as Temporary Stop Notice and emergency injunctions that have been used in Sawbridgeworth, have not been used at New Farm despite remaining available for UDC to utilise.

I have raised the unauthorised site with the Housing Minister because this case demonstrates the failures of our planning system. The system too often works against people who follow the rules whilst rogue developers are rewarded.

Continued on page 21



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That is why in Opposition, I have proposed stronger enforcement powers, tougher restrictions on retrospective applications and meaningful penalties for deliberate breaches.

Along with Councillor Gooding I will continue to fight for the residents of Elsenham, until this matter is resolved. Local people who follow the rules should not be treated like fools, and those who flout the rules should be appropriately punished.

I would encourage residents who are experiencing issues with unauthorised developments to get in touch with my office at

kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk



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Contact Hayley Wilson, recruitment support on the above number for further help or guidance.

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THE AUBREY BUXTON NATURE RESERVE

By John Welham, Warden

✉ communications@essexwt.org.uk



With the arrival of Autumn I hope that we will be having sufficient rain to replenish the chalk aquifer upon which we rely for our water supplies. At the time of writing the ponds in the reserve are as low as I have ever seen them. I also hope that the young trees we planted last winter have survived the summer drought. Looking down the tree tubes that are protecting them from deer and rabbits it is hard to tell if they are still alive, so fingers crossed.

Thanks to an award from The Stansted Airport Community Fund new paths are in place at the southern end of the reserve where it gets particularly muddy in the winter. These will allow people to access the reserve without walking further up the slope over the wildlife meadow. Please do keep to the paths.



Autumn is a good time of year to see fungi and there are some particularly impressive ones by the central bench in the reserve. These are Giant Polypores, a bracket fungus that like to feed on rotting wood especially beech wood.

At our West Wood reserve near Thaxted we thought we had found another interesting fungus, but it turned out to be a Slime Mold. This bright yellow species has the common name of Dog Vomit Slime Mold. Dog owners will be able to attest to the appropriateness of this name.



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NEWPORT & DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

By Sandra Honour, Programme Secretary

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Our August club meeting was not in the evening, as usual, but in the afternoon of 12th August where close on 40 people joined us for our annual Cream Tea.

Visitors and members were welcomed with a glass of alcohol-free Prosecco before sitting back and enjoying a wonderful demonstration by Elaine Boobier entitled 'Teatime in Bloom'. Beautiful colourful arrangements were created in teacups, picnic baskets and other novelty containers all representative of a glorious teatime! A cream tea was then served with homemade scones, cream, jam and pots of tea with Elaine's arrangements raffled off at the end of the afternoon. Our October meeting will be a workshop on 21st October but please make a note in your diary for our last demonstration of the year on 18th November, 'A Floral Concert' with Rachael Borenkova. This will be our Christmas event with extra special refreshments! Please join us for this festive evening.



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

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A thought-provoking October at Stansted Mountfitchet u3a

October promises to be an especially stimulating month for Stansted Mountfitchet u3a, with two Saturday Seminars and a fascinating talk at our monthly meeting.

On Saturday October 10, doors open at 8.30am for a 9.00am start, when Dr Kevin Bryant presents *Autism and ADHD Today: Pathology or Personality? Are autism and ADHD disorders or simply part of natural human variation?* Kevin will examine some of the scientific evidence surrounding these increasingly debated subjects and explore the questions behind the headlines.

Dr Bryant is a King's Fellow in Bioscience Education at Anglia Ruskin University. His research examines the social construction of knowledge and its influence on power relationships in higher education and healthcare. He lives in St Ives, Cambridgeshire, and runs his local u3a discussion group, *Health Issues in the News: The Science Behind the Headlines*.

Another Saturday Seminar takes place on October 24, when Don Mobley, a former USAF pilot now living in Suffolk, turns his attention to the United States Constitution and the balance of political power. His presentation, *The Constitution vs Unitary Executive Power*, will examine the Founders' system of checks and balances, Project 2025, changes made during the first 18 months of the current administration, and concerns surrounding the 2026 midterm elections. It promises an illuminating examination of the implications for American democracy.

At our monthly meeting on Thursday October 15, a speaker from the Jane Austen Society will explore the life and work of arguably Britain's best-known female writer of the nineteenth century. The talk is designed for a general audience.

Uttlesford Community Supermarket

We are so sorry to announce that our Community Supermarket project has now ended.

Working alongside communities across Uttlesford to address food insecurity and support residents has been a real privilege. We want to thank our wonderful customers, partners, volunteers and supporters who have continually encouraged and motivated the team over the past months.

For those who are in need of food support, please visit uttlesford.gov.uk for details of the Uttlesford Community Response Hub.



**Uttlesford
Help Hub**

Everyone needs a little extra support sometimes. The Help Hub is here to make sure you get help quickly - before small problems become big ones.



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2026 Dates

20 October

17 November

15 December

1.15pm to 4.15pm
Third Tuesday of each
month



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Christmas volunteers across local shops

Could you make a difference on your doorstep by volunteering at your local St Clare Hospice shop? The Hospice is calling on local people to join its shop teams, with volunteers needed in all 13 of its shops across West Essex and East Hertfordshire.

With Christmas approaching, St Clare is particularly looking for seasonal volunteers who can spare a few hours over the festive period, as well as weekend volunteers who can commit to a regular Saturday or Sunday shift throughout the year. St Clare's shops play an important role in their local communities, raising vital funds that help the Hospice provide free specialist care and support to local people living with a life-limiting illness, as well as their families and loved ones. Head of Trading Rose Sheppard said: "Our shops are so much more than places to buy and donate pre-loved items. They're part of the local community, and our volunteers are at the heart of everything they do. Every shift, our volunteers are helping to raise vital funds that make a real difference to local people and their families. At a time when the cost of providing our compassionate services continues to rise, while NHS funding remains unchanged, the income generated by our shops is more important than ever."

For St Clare shop volunteer Ann, it's the people she has met and the difference she knows she is making that make volunteering so rewarding. "The moments that have stayed with me are when a customer comes in and thanks us for all the care and compassion that St Clare provided for their loved one," she said. "It makes me feel so humble. The friendship is also wonderful, and I've met so many customers from all backgrounds and shared in their stories. It also gives us an opportunity to spread the message about how the Hospice can help. I can honestly say I'm so proud to be volunteering for St Clare and I thoroughly enjoy it. Anyone thinking about volunteering shouldn't think too long about it – it's truly rewarding."

With flexible opportunities available, St Clare is encouraging anyone who has a few hours to spare to consider joining their local shop team. The Hospice has shops in Harlow, Bishop's Stortford, Thorley, Takeley, Great Dunmow, Saffron Walden, Epping, Ongar, Debden, Loughton and Buckhurst Hill.

To find out more about becoming a St Clare Hospice shop volunteer and apply, visit:

stclarehospice.org.uk/shop-volunteer



Shop volunteer Ann

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The nights are drawing in. The temperature is sliding down. I get cobwebs draping across my face when I go out of the back door. The splodges the birds leave on the doorstep are changing from white to purple. Yes, autumn is here. So, what will autumn bring? Well, hot soup and the promise of a wonderful Christmas Tree Festival to name but two.

First, the soup. As described last time, we are re-creating a “Soup Café” in memory of Avril Braidwood, in partnership with the WI. This will be held on **Saturday October 24**, from **12.30 until 2.30** in the **Memorial Hall**. There will be a selection of soups, including vegan ones, together with tea, coffee, and cake. For the entirely reasonable sum of £5.00 you will get a bowl of soup, a drink, a slice of homemade cake and the opportunity of a natter with your friends and neighbours. Can you resist that? I can't, and I look forward to seeing you there. There will be no entry fee – just turn up and enjoy.

Secondly, the Christmas Tree Festival. This originated in 2009 as the first step in our year-long celebrations to mark the construction of St. Mary's church in 1110, with another intended to bring the celebrations to a close in December 2010. However, it was such a success that the village would not let us stop, and it has gone from strength to strength ever since. This year it will be held over the weekend of **5/6 December**. Seeing the church full of trees, of all shapes, sizes, and designs is a wonderful spectacle. The trees are supplied and decorated by individuals, companies and organizations expressing their ideas, joy, thoughts, and dedications for the Christmas season.

By the time you read this, application forms to submit a tree should be available, giving further details.

As you can imagine, a lot of work goes into the organization and running of the festival, and all offers of help in setting up the church, helping with refreshments, car parking etc. will be welcome. If you think you can help, even if just for a few hours, please ring Jill on 01279 812397 or Elizabeth on 01279 813543.

Thanks for reading this, and I hope to see you at some of our events.

GARDEN HINT *By Sue Johnson*

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THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

By Ken McDonald, Secretary

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We always encourage people to visit parish churches; they are usually the oldest building in any community, and their interiors have great variety.

Here, I will discuss one particular feature – the screen which forms a partition, both physically and symbolically, between the laity or congregation in the nave, the main part of the church, and the clergy in the chancel. The screen, sometimes referred to as a chancel screen, often has a lattice design to allow people worshipping in the nave to see through into the chancel. Chancel comes from a Latin word meaning lattice.

Several of our churches have finely carved 15th-century wooden screens including Albury, Finchingfield, Henham, Manuden and Wendens Ambo.

Some screens are called rood screens. Above these screens is a “rood” - a representation of Christ’s crucifixion, usually flanked by two saints, most often Mary and St John. Rood is a Saxon word meaning cross.

The Hundred Parishes has some fine examples of rood screens. They are usually carved in wood but in Stebbing and Great Bardfield parish churches (both dedicated to St. Mary) the 14th-century screens are carved in stone. This is a rare feature.



Stone screen at Great Bardfield

Little Canfield’s wooden rood screen is believed to date from the 14th century. A carved 15th-century wooden screen can be found in Sawbridgeworth’s Church of Great St Mary with a depiction above it of the risen Christ installed as recently as 2000 AD.

The Church of Holy Trinity at Takeley has a relatively modern rood screen, installed around 1910 and featuring a wooden carving of Christ on the cross with a saint on each side.

I have named just some examples around The Hundred Parishes. Please explore our local churches, perhaps while following one of the walk descriptions that can be downloaded from www.hundredparishes.org.uk

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.

ST MARY'S CHURCH ELSENHAM

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Thought For The Month by *Louis Wilson*

Charles Spurgeon was a major Christian figure in 19th century Britain. He pastored the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London which grew to have a vast Sunday congregation, but he was best known for his impactful, Christ-centred preaching.

He was joyful, humorous and big-hearted with an inspiring range of concerns and interests. Although George Muller was the great evangelical advocate for orphans in Victorian Britain, Spurgeon too was passionate about the need. He opened his first orphanage in Stockwell in 1866. It came about like this:

A woman wrote to him saying that she had £20,000 which she wanted to devote to setting up an orphanage. It was such a huge sum of money, that Spurgeon took one of his deacons and went to see the woman.

As they approached her address, the look of the houses suggested that she could not possibly have that sort of money. So when they arrived, Spurgeon said: Madam, we have called about the £200 which you mentioned in your letter.

£200 she said, I meant to write £20,000! Ah, said Spurgeon, you did put £20,000, but I wondered whether a nought or two may have slipped in by mistake.

The full amount did indeed come through, the orphanage was established and many, many children were cared for.

In the strictest sense, there may not be so many orphans in Britain today but according to the Home for Good website, in 2025 there were 81,770 children in the

care system in England (and another 20,000 in the other UK nations).

For these reasons, over the past year my wife and I (mainly my wife) have embarked on the process to become foster carers. It has been a challenging, rigorous process involving many conversations, pieces of written work, training and finally a panel interview in May this year. But along the way, we have met some extraordinary people.

In his book *Home for Good*, Krish Kandiah talks about the set of prejudices he had around the care system (and social workers in particular) when he first decided to become a foster carer. But now, having fostered many children, he says: 'In our experience most of our social workers have been brilliant. Some have fought with us. Most have fought for us. Once deemed the enemy, they are now friends and colleagues.'

I have to say, that has been our experience too. We had an assessing social worker who was incredibly thorough and very inquisitive. We had our ups and downs, but she was unfailingly warm, friendly and supportive. We now have a supervising social worker, also supportive and helpful.

In August, a really delightful little girl A-H was placed with us. She has her own social worker with whom we obviously interact regularly. We have seen first hand how hard social workers work and what a tough job they do. I'm sure that not everyone's experience is always positive, but we are thanking God for the work we've seen so far from Essex Social Services.

CHURCH EVENTS IN OUR VILLAGES OCTOBER 2026

Church Services

Sunday 4th October

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

Sunday 11th October

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

Sunday 18th October

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

Sunday 25th October

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



**Saturday
30 October
15:30 – 17:30
Henham Church**
Games, craft &
treats for primary
age children.
1 child: £5; 2:£7;
3:£10

**Avril's Soup Café Sat 24 October,
12:30pm** Elsenham Memorial Hall

For further details on everything going
on at Henham, Elsenham & Ugley
(HEU) Churches, visit
www.heuchurch.org

Other Regular Events

SUNDAYS:

Elsenham & Henham Sunday Club
**(Reception-Y5) Leave Morning Praise
Service, 10.30am**
Sundays: 11th, 18th & 25th
Pathfinders (Y6-Y9)
**Henham Church 6.00pm - leave from
service to meet in the New Church
Hall, Henham.**
Sundays: 4th, 11th & 18th
Crammin' (Y10-Y13)
**Henham Church 6.00pm – leave from
service to meet in the New Church
Hall, Henham.**
Sundays: 4th, 11th & 18th

MID-WEEK AND SATURDAY:

Start the Week with Prayer
Old Frank's, Elsenham 9.30am
Mondays: 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th
Seekers After School Bible Club
(Y3-Y4) Old Frank's 3.20pm
Mondays: 5th, 12th & 19th
Tuesday Club, Henham Church
1-4pm. For anyone of retirement age or
wanting company. Tuesdays: 6th
(1st Tuesday of each month)
Explorers (Y4-Y6)
New Church Hall, Henham 3.30pm
Wednesdays: 7th, 14th & 21st
Little Fishes Pre-School Group
New Church Hall, Henham 9.15am
Thursdays: 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd
Little Fishes Pre-School Group
Elsenham Memorial Hall 10.00am
Fridays: 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd
Church Lunch Club
Elsenham Memorial Hall 12.30pm
Fridays: (2nd & 4th Friday of the month):
9th & 23rd



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ELSENHAM BOWLS AND SOCIAL CLUB

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By David Thomas



Congratulations to all the winners of the internal competitions this season. Our internal finals weekend was extended over three days (Friday to Sunday) to accommodate all the matches that needed to be played. Trophies will be presented to the winners at our Annual Dinner Dance and Presentation on 17th October.

Special congratulations go to our 'A Team', who not only won a promotion to Division A in the NWEBA Competition, but also won the Division B playoff with Section 1 against Bocking Alliance B to win the division overall. The 'B Team' have also been promoted for next season to Division B. Well done to all involved in both teams' successes.

The Crib league has already started with matches played on a Tuesday. Bill Eldridge was presented with the Singles Champions shield at the 2026-27 launch evening held on the 1st September. Congratulations to Bill.

The club Annual Dinner Dance and Presentation night is on October 17th. Please book your tickets and your menu options from the club bar or by calling Trevor on ' 07445 437437. The next date for your diary is the club Christmas Dinner and Dance on December 12th. Full details and menus will be available soon.

Bingo sessions at the club are on October 10th and 24th and November 7th and 21st. Sessions are at 7:00 for a 7:30 start, and with the jackpot increasing in size there will possibly be an Autumn Windfall for somebody. Darts sessions run on a Thursday evening throughout the year from 7:00, to which new members are welcome.

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

We would also like to make readers aware that we now have some sponsorship and corporate day opportunities for local companies and organisations 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 ☎ 831011 ✉ david1.r.brown@gmail.com



Champions of the Herts & Essex Border League Division 1 and promotion back into the Premier League. Nine straight wins during the latter half of the season and the 1st XI return to the top division. A mixture of experience and youth has worked very well this year. Therefore, this has been very much a team effort.

The 2nd XI finished 4th in Division 3 under the leadership of Paul Mason-Smith with our young players making a huge contribution.

The club defeated the President's XI in a highly entertaining match with Paul Grayson ex Essex CCC playing for the President.

The junior section had a very busy enjoyable season, and the club will continue with All Star (5 to 8 year-olds) and Dynamo cricket (9 to 11 year-olds) in 2027.

A very successful Golf Day was won by Stansted Cricket Club team and individual – very well done. 44 players took part and £650 was raised. The Presentation Evening will be held on October 23rd followed by the Annual General Meeting in November.

All in all, a very successful season and club spirit has been excellent throughout. If you are looking for a cricket club for the 2027 season look no further, we have a beautiful ground and community spirit. If at all interested contact details as above.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Burial of Ashes:

On 17 September 2026 in Elsenham Churchyard, Carol Pountain.

On 21 September 2026 in Elsenham Churchyard, Jean Halsey Platt.

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	



ELSENHAM FLOWER SHOW SOCIETY (2026)

[A very big](#) 'Thank You' to everyone who took part in and attended the 39th Village Flower Show.

Here is the list of all the winners.

Individual Classes

1	Boughton Trophy	Thuy Nottage
2	The Johnson Cup	Jack Tickner
3	John Claydon Memorial Cup	Emily Stoner
6	Claydon Bowl	Bianca Donald
7	St. Mary's Church Shield	Tim Donald
8	Elsenham Old Folks Club Rose Bowl	Gill Hathaway
10	Newland Salver	Sue Coleman
11	EFSS Top Vase	Bianca Donald
25	EFSS Heaviest Marrow Cup	Jack Tickner
26	EFSS Heaviest Onion Cup	Jack Tickner
31	EFSS Top Tray	Jack Tickner
32	Walker Cup	N/A
39	George Sandford Cup	Pauline Richardson
40	Freda Powell Trophy	Barbara Pether
45	Budden Trophy	Sue Coleman
47	Hackett Shield	N/A
49	Gladys Hudson Memorial Cup	Carole Poole
50	Shirley Scutt Shield	Julie Hardy
53	Hilda Collett Memorial Cup	Lynda Bowcock

Section Trophies

Chapel End Nursery Cup	Emma Coates
Oldacre Landscaping Cup	Bianca Donald
Moat Farm Perpetual Cup	Emma Coates
George Powell Trophy	John Todd
EFSS Produce Cup	Joanne Lushey
EFSS Cup	Lynda Jolly
Super Cook Cup	Sue Coleman/Barbara Pether
Elsenham WI Centenary Trophy	Sue Coleman
Jubilee Cup	Sue Coleman
The Karen Sheerin Cup	Sue Coleman
Woollvin Cup	Julie Hardy
The Café Cup	Julie Hardy
EFSS Photography Cup	Sue Coleman
Options Trophy	Lynda Jolly
Richards Salver (awarded to the exhibitor who has never won a trophy at a previous EFSS show)	Emily Stoner
Elsenham Parish Council Shield (awarded to the exhibitor gaining the most points overall in the Flower Show)	Emma Coates



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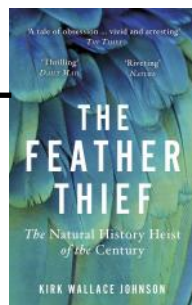
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THE FEATHER THIEF BY KIRK WALLACE JOHNSON

Reviewed by Marion Giles for Elsenham Book Group

'One summer evening in 2009, twenty-year-old musical prodigy Edwin Rist broke into the Natural History Museum at Tring, home to one of the largest ornithological collections in the world. Once inside, Rist grabbed as many rare bird specimens as he was able to carry before escaping into the darkness.



Kirk Wallace Johnson was waist-deep in a river in New Mexico when his fly-fishing guide first told him about the heist. But what would possess a person to steal dead birds? And had Rist paid for his crime? In search of answers, Johnson embarked upon a worldwide investigation, leading him into the fiercely secretive underground community obsessed with the Victorian art of salmon fly-tying. Was Edwin Rist a genius or narcissist? Mastermind or pawn? *So says the blurb on the back of the book.*

'A tale of obsession ... vivid and arresting.' *The Times*

The Amazon AI says: Customers find this book to be a fascinating narrative nonfiction that keeps them engaged throughout. Moreover, the writing is well-executed, and customers appreciate the informative content, with one review noting how the author presents research and information without being boring. Additionally, customers find the book engaging, with one mentioning how it reveals the mind-boggling world of fly-tying.

This was the choice of the book group this month and it did provoke a good discussion. We don't usually read non-fiction so it was unusual to be discussing true crime rather than an author's writing skills in characterisation and plot.

As it is a true crime, we cannot really know who is telling the truth. However, Rist was arrested, and as he confessed was tried and sentenced. Rist said he wanted the feather collection (rare, hard to find and expensive) both to tie salmon flies for himself and to sell to make money to buy a new flute for a prestigious audition.

Our discussion centred around not whether he did it but whether it happened as he said it did; should mental illness have been used as a legal defence; what part the rest of the community played and the sad fact that beautiful birds were hunted to extinction for historical and scientific purposes (see Arthur Wallace and Charles Darwin) but actually now they live in a drawer in a museum.

Kirk Wallace Johnson is an American soldier and in recovering from the Iraq war he engaged in the rescue and rehabilitation of Iraqi refugees. Suffering from PTSD, he sought refuge in fly fishing and became interested in the heist. He seemed to become obsessed with recovering as many skins as possible. Why he became so obsessed is not obvious. His research was detailed and extensive meaning that this book is longer than it needed to be due to its inclusion. Once the story moved from background to the quest to track down the skins it became a more interesting read. The physical book contains lots of colour illustrations.



NEXT FARMERS MARKET - 31 October 2026

Our Market runs on the last Saturday of every month, but just to make things easier, these are the dates for the rest of 2026: -

NOVEMBER 28 (*all things festive*)

Did you know that living in close proximity to a Farmers Market can increase the value of your home, as it's seen as a really positive selling feature, so why not make the most of ours?

Our stallholders can vary from month to month, and their products can be seasonal, but the quality is always tip top and there is something for everyone; so, if you haven't been for a while, do pop by. We are open from 12.30-2.30pm you will not be disappointed.

We have a great range of products, including eggs, honey, apple juice, cakes, savoury pastries, local meat products, healthy Kombucha, dog treats, chutneys and jams, plants, fish, whole foods and spices, bread, cheese... The list is long, and the majority is locally produced.

Not sure what you're after? Why not come for fresh barista coffee and cake and have a browse at the produce whilst you're here or sit at a table and watch the world go by...it's a win win!

Most of the produce is homemade, so not only do you get to treat yourself to these fantastic goodies once a month, but you are also supporting local businesses and coming together with our fabulous community; you might even make a new friend! We look forward to welcoming you.

Plenty of parking and no charge for entry; just enjoy and immerse yourself in all the gorgeous produce!

Best wishes
Elsenham Farmers Market Team

COOKERY CORNER

By Sue Johnson ☎ 812704

This recipe was given me by my sister who lives in beautiful North Norfolk. Do give it a try, very simple and tastes so good.

NORFOLK SHORTCAKE (makes 8 squares)

1lb (450g) self-raising flour.

6oz (175g) unsalted butter, plus a little for greasing.

5½ oz (160g) granulated sugar.

9½ oz (260g) mixed dried fruit (raisins, sultanas and chopped dried apricots).

1 large egg, beaten (keep a little back for brushing the top of the shortcake).

A little caster sugar for sprinkling on the top.

1/3rd pint (200ml) milk to bind.

Prepare two baking sheets by greasing with a little butter.

Heat the oven to 190°C/170°C fan/gas mark 5.

Rub the butter into the flour, stir in sugar. Stir in the fruit and most of the egg. Add the milk to bind the mixture together.

Roll the mixture out onto a floured board to about 1¼" (3cm) thick. Cut into 8 same-size squares, brush the tops with the remaining beaten egg and sprinkle over the caster sugar.

Place each square onto a baking sheet and bake in a moderate oven for about 20 minutes. Place on a cooling rack.

CHEF'S RECOMMENDATION: You could use a 3-inch (7cm) round cutter if it's easier than making squares.



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

Previous issues of Elsenham News are available on the ECA Website

www.ElsenhamCommunityAssociation.org.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS

*Acts of Remembrance Memorial Garden 7 & 11 November
Village History Society Meeting 11 November
Christmas Tree Festival 5 & 6 December*

VILLAGE CONTACTS

Airport Roadside Parking		8000 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 (Thaxted)	Bo Davis	cllr.bo.davis@essex.gov.uk
Cricket Club	David Brown	07788 999663
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
Member of Parliament	Kemi Badenoch	0207 219 5214
Memorial Hall Bookings		
www.elsenhamcommunityassociation.org.uk/hiring-elsenham-memorial-hall		
Parish Clerk - Fiona Gardiner	parishclerk@elsenham-pc.gov.uk	
		07456 791727
Elsenham Parish Council Website	www.elsenham-pc.gov.uk	
Police		101
Post Office		812175
Rainbows	elsenhamrainbows@gmail.com	
Scouts	1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com	
St Mary's Fabric Fund	Elizabeth Barker	813543
Tennis Club	Petra Studholme	814667
Tots & Toddlers	Dawn Temple	07944 841358
Uttlesford District Councillors	Petrina Lees	07713 074656
(for Elsenham & Henham)	Bianca Donald	07941 880279
Village Hall Bookings	elsenhamvillagehall@gmail.com	
Womens Institute Secretary	Gill Hathaway	813385
Youth Football Club (Chairman)	Ricky Lambourne	info@elsenhamyfc.co.uk

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



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