

Elsenham News



Use it or lose it, says village bus co-ordinator Ray Franklin. See page 25 for information on the Essex County Council bus survey. You don't have much time!



The Pump Elsenham

elsenhamnews@hotmail.co.uk

October 2023
75p where sold

Elsenham Village Regular Monthly or Quarterly Activities

Parish Council 1st **Monday** of month 8pm (excl. Bank Holidays) Memorial Hall
 Natter Night 2nd **Monday** of month 7.30pm The Crown
 Elsenham EAGLES 4th **Monday** of month 7.30 - 9pm The Crown
 Henham & District Garden Society 1st **Tuesday** of month 2.30 - 4pm Memorial Hall
 Community Choir 1st & 3rd **Tuesday** of the month 7- 8.30pm Village Hall
 Life Drawing 2nd and 4th **Tuesday** of month 7.30 - 9.30pm Village Hall
 Village History Society 2nd **Wednesday** of month quarterly 7.45pm Memorial Hall
 Women's Institute 3rd **Thursday** of month 7.45pm Memorial Hall
 Church Lunch Club 2nd & 4th **Friday** of month 12.30pm Memorial Hall
 Elsenham Farmers Market last **Saturday** of month 12 - 2pm Village Hall

October 2023 diary

Mon 2	Parish Council Meeting	Memorial Hall 8pm
Tues 3	Henham & District Garden Soc	Memorial Hall 2.30pm
Tues 3 & 17	Elsenham Community Choir	Village Hall 7pm
Thurs 5, 12 & 26	Pop-up Cakery & Barista Bar	Memorial Hall 8.45am-2pm
Sat 7	Clothes Bank	Village Hall 12-2pm
Sat 7	Bingo	Bowls & Social Club 7 for 7.30pm
Mon 9	Natter Night	The Crown 7.30pm
Tues 10 & 24	Life Drawing	Village Hall 7.30pm
Wed 11	District Councillors' Surgery	Orwell House, Station Road 6.30pm
Fri 13 & 27	Church Lunch Club	Memorial Hall 12.30pm
Sat/Sun 14/15	Art Exhibition and Sale	St Mary's Church 10.30am - 5pm
Thurs 19	WI	Memorial Hall 7.45pm
Sat 21	Bingo	Bowls & Social Club 7 for 7.30pm
Mon 23	Elsenham Eagles	The Crown 7.30pm
Sat 28	Elsenham Farmers Market	12 - 2pm Village Hall
Sat 28	Tennis Club Quiz Night	Bowls & Social Club 7.30 for 8pm



Mobile Library
Every third Thursday stopping at Glebe End

11.50 am to 12.20 pm

12 October

Elsenham Village Regular Weekly Activities

Day	Time	Activity	Location
Monday	9.30-10.30am	Zumba	Memorial Hall
	9.30 - 11am	Dnky Dragons	Henham Village Hall (term-time)
	10.30am	Health walk	Start at De Mandeville Green
	4-4.30pm	Rascals (3-4yrs)	Memorial Hall (term time)
	4.30-5.30pm	Rascals (5-7yrs)	Memorial Hall (term time)
	5.30-7pm	Rascals (8-12yrs)	Memorial Hall (term time)
	7-7.45pm	Boxercise	Village Hall
	7.30-8.30pm	Shape to the beat	Memorial Hall (not 1st Monday)
Tuesday	9.30-10.30am	Touchpoint Food Share	Bowls & Social Club
	9.30-11.30am	Village Café Coffee	Memorial Hall (not 5th Tuesday)
	4.45-5.45pm	Rainbows	Memorial Hall (term-time)
	4.45-5.45pm	Beavers Group 2	Henham Village Hall (term-time)
	6-7.15pm	Cubs	Henham Village Hall (term-time)
	6-7.30pm	Brownies	Memorial Hall (term-time)
	7.30-10.30pm	Tennis Club night	Tennis Courts
	8pm	Fitness Yoga/Pilates	Memorial Hall
Wednesday	9.45-11.30am	Tots & Toddlers	Memorial Hall (term-time)
	5.30-7.30pm	Slimming World	Memorial Hall
	5.45-6.45pm	Beavers	Henham Village Hall (term-time)
	7-9pm	Scouts	Henham Village Hall (term-time)
	7.30pm	Aerobics	Elsenham Village Hall
Thursday	6-7.15pm	Cubs	Henham Village Hall (term-time)
	6.45-7.45pm	Jump Fit	Elsenham Village Hall
Friday	10-11 am	Little Fishes	Memorial Hall (term-time)
Saturday	9am-12pm	Junior Football	Playing Field
	8.15am-1pm	Tart au Citroen	Playing Field
	8.45-9.30am	Little Kickers Mighty	Village Hall (term time)
	9.35-10.20am	Little Kickers Junior	Village Hall (term time)



Wow, what an amazing start to our first Farmers Market!

To those of you that came and bought produce, thank you so much for supporting our village Farmers Market. For those of you that couldn't buy anything because we had sold out, we are so sorry, but everyone will make sure they bring LOTS more produce for our next one on SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER from 12-2.00pm in the Village Hall (next to the school). For those who came and didn't see anything they wanted, please keep coming as we will have more stalls, and these will vary from market to market and you could also stay and have a coffee and a natter!

Nicole from Coco Fleur will once more brew her fabulous coffee which can be thoroughly enjoyed with her delicious homemade cakes or perhaps, you'd prefer a savoury delight from Antonia's Country Kitchen instead. Malpudor will have their wonderful sourdough bread and their focaccia bread is the stuff dreams are made of! Claire will be selling her handmade Halloween chocolate goodies as well as her usual chocolate treats, so don't be late!

There will be fresh apple juice, citrus curds, honey and honeycombs, homemade dog treats, freshly cut local flowers, micro herbs absolutely bursting with flavour, local meat for a weekend treat, eggs, environmentally friendly cleaning products, the list goes on.

There was such a lovely atmosphere at the market with our brilliant community all coming together. So go on, meet a friend, do some weekend shopping or just treat yourself or a loved one to something special from our independent and local sellers at the market.

If you can't make the October one, we are missing November out as it would clash with the Christmas market, so the next will be on SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER and there will of course be all things festive and yummy!!

We look forward to welcoming you.

THE NEWS REPORT

From The Editors



With the environment very firmly at the forefront of our minds these days, surely the use of public transport over personal use of the motor car is an important issue.

With that in mind, please look at the piece on page 25 and let Essex County Council have your views on our bus service.

Having done that you can then start to think about having some fun, and there is plenty to look forward to. At the end of October (28 to 30) you could pop up to the golf club for some Halloween fun, or check out the events at Cammas Hall.

When you've done that, you can look forward to the Christmas markets. Henham have theirs on Friday November 10 and Elsenham have theirs on Saturday November 25.

We might be heading into autumn but there is plenty for you to enjoy in and around the village to help you beat those end of summer blues!

All our regular contributors are with us again this month, so it is another packed issue. However, we are always looking for new contributors. If you belong to an organisation or association and want to be a regular in this magazine, just drop us a line—we look forward to hearing from you.

On a final note, sadly some drivers using the roads around the village have still not got the message. The speed limit of 30mph is a maximum, not an option.

Environmental tip for the month:

If you'd like to use less plastic you might like to try swapping individually-wrapped sweets for those sold loose in boxes or jars.

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ELSENHAM PARISH COUNCIL OCTOBER 2023

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



Elsenham Parish Council thanked Mr Allan Hathaway for doing such a wonderful job on reconstructing the Memorial Cross in Church Lane. This had been severely damaged by lorries working in the adjacent field.

Essex County Cllr. Ray Gooding said that only one school in Essex had been affected by the crumbling concrete, but after an inspection, the school did not have to close as it was not considered unsafe.

Cllr. Mott is holding a meeting with Mr. Glenn Shaw, ECC's Water Regulation Engineer, at the Tye Green Pond. It is hoped that he will be able to answer the questions as to why the pond floods, the way the water flows, if drains or ditches are contributing to the problem or if the road, which is subsiding, is the cause.

The Parish Council have been trying to employ a Special Constable for over a year, without success. There has not been one enquiry about the position. The Parish Council needs to consider whether to, once again, employ a PCSO until a Special Constable can be found.

Elsenham Parish Council have opened a bank account with the Unity Trust bank. Funds have been transferred into the account, which should give a good interest yield per year. There are two reasons for transferring the money, the Parish Council receive a higher rate of interest and while all the funds were in one bank account, they were not Government protected.

The Parish Clerk has contacted North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) with regards to the worn yellow lines on Station Road. The NEPP had replied saying they agreed the yellow lines needed re-painting, but currently did not have the money to carry out the work and did not know when, or if, they ever would.

The Speed Watch Team recorded 40 speeding vehicles traveling from Henham Road into Elsenham, exceeding the 30mph, in just over an hour. Many were travelling more than 40mph and heading towards the Elsenham Primary School. Essex County Council is proposing to reduce the current speed limit of 40mph along a length of Henham Road to a 30mph limit to improve road safety for residents and pedestrians. The Parish Council have been fighting for this for some time. Essex County Cllr. Gooding said Highways idea was also to install 40mph buffers on roads leading into Elsenham. Henham Road already has a buffer zone, one would be installed on Stansted Road just before the motorway bridge and one on Hall Road on the sharp bend. However, Cllr. Gooding said there was still a lot of work to do.

The large pothole in Station Road, on the left-hand side going towards the station, is extremely dangerous. Vehicles and cyclists swerve to miss it. It has been reported to Essex Highways and, Cllr. Gooding said he would pursue it.

The next Parish Council meeting will be 2 October, 8pm in the Memorial Hall.



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DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

✉ Cllrdonald@uttlesford.gov.uk

☎ 07941 880279

✉ Cllrlees@uttlesford.gov.uk

☎ 07713 074656



Chair of the Council, Cllr Geof Driscoll, has been cycling round the district this week to raise awareness and funds for local charity, Accuro. He has covered more than 70 miles visiting every ward in Uttlesford on an electric hybrid bike. He has visited Ward Initiatives such as the Littlebury Energy Project and Multi Agency housing initiative.

One school in Uttlesford has been affected by the RAAC concrete problem and we spent a day organising how they could be accommodated in London Road. Finalising all the details we were then told that the Education Secretary had declared it was safe to stay in the building. However, we were delighted with the “can do attitude” and the desire to help. We are now assessing our council properties to ensure that we are not susceptible. At this present time the reports are positive.

We have been spending the summer addressing the change programme required for the Council to continue to deliver a streamlined service, despite lack of funding from Central Government. Legal Changes have meant that our allocated monies from our investments, cannot be utilised in the immediate future. Despite our success, other councils, such as Thurrock, have lost millions, so there is blanket legal requirement, even for those like us that have invested well.

We have joined with Essex and other District Councils with a Food Waste Recycling Scheme. All residents will be receiving a four page information leaflet explaining the benefits and importance of recycling food waste. Please do read and consider implementing the recommendations.

Our Environmental Health colleagues (who work on the border check point at Stansted Airport) had an interesting find during a routine inspection last week. The team was alerted to a shipment of canine semen which is subject to veterinary checks and is a product dealt with on a very regular basis. However, when the package arrived, it was clearly not packaged in the same way as normal. It is, in most cases, presented in a plastic pod, suspended in liquid nitrogen or sometimes chilled, surrounded by freezer packs. Instead it was in a cardboard box and was clearly not chilled. The package contained two clear plastic bags of what appeared to be green pellets with a very strong odour. Suspecting this was cannabis, they contacted Border Force who confirmed their suspicions and took control of the packages, which weighed 1kg. The matter will be referred to the police for investigation.

The team deals with more than 1,000 shipments a year and processes millions of pounds of biological and animal-based products – everything from preserved sea cucumbers to bovine retinas.

Our Surgery this month will be Wednesday 11 October at 18.30 Orwell House, Station Road, Elsenham.

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ELSENHAM



DEVELOPMENT DEVELOPMENTS

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



It was double-whammy time from UDC in mid-August, with details of two housing applications of some size within a couple of days of each other. Bloor Homes submitted their scheme to build 200 homes near to the railway station, as if the 350 which they're now constructing isn't enough. Also, an application was made for 40 homes off Rush Lane. Both these schemes already have outline approval, which means that it is only the detail which is now up for approval, and any objections to the principle are futile.

The rules of this particular game are that the detailed application must be made within three years of the outline approval. It began to look as if nothing would be heard concerning Rush Lane, but in the event the developers made it with three weeks to spare. There have been rumours of difficulties, including the access and the natural springs on the site. The applicants are the same as for the outline application, although they said at the time that they would look to sell the site on. Possibly, therefore, what we have here is a holding operation, designed to buy more time. It is impossible to know.

What we can say is that the applicants have not become any more familiar with the village in the interim. There is, apparently, a 'village green' outside the memorial garden, and buses stop regularly in the High Street. We get a glimpse into the cut-and-paste approach taken by developers when we are assured that 'the site is a short distance from the centre of Braintree and is connected via the traffic-free route created by the existing footpaths'. They get very excited over the inclusion of a picnic table in the play area. But it does not compensate for the quality of the equipment - perish the thought that four boulders are included purely on the grounds of cost, or cheapness. The number of visitor parking spaces, at one per four homes, should be ten, but diligent searching of the plans has only found seven.

Bloor Homes also appear to be arithmetically challenged. They assert that they have made provision for 5% bungalows in the total new homes of 200, which comes, they say, to nine. There is much confusion about amenity space for the block of flats. Some statements say there will be a private communal garden, while others, sometimes in the same document, state that outside space will be provided in the form of balconies - although the *Essex Design Guide* says that balconies are only appropriate in urban areas.

Dandara are now well into construction work on their twin sites, with 51 homes to be built off Isabel Drive and 48 off Stansted Road. They call these 'Parcel A' and 'Parcel B' respectively (or it could be the other way about), which means little to delivery drivers. Dandara therefore installed a banksman in Stansted Road with little to do but play on his phone and scan the horizon for signs of approaching construction traffic which he could then direct to the correct area. Latterly, however, he has not been much in evidence; perhaps he has taken his phone to somewhere a little less exciting.



SAVE THE DATE!

Golf World Stansted

ELSENHAM CHRISTMAS MARKET

25th November 2023
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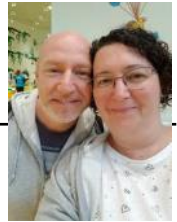
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VILLAGE EVENTS

By Laura and Brian

✉ wtmbricks@gmail.com

🌐 www.waytoomanybricks.co.uk



We are so proud to have been involved in events over the last few years and want to introduce ourselves.

We are Laura and Brian and own a business called Way Too Many Bricks. We sell Lego®, both new and used (reuse and recycle), in sets and we have many thousand individual parts. Lots of you will have visited our tent at the summer fete where we had some amazing displays.

We have been involved with both the Christmas Market and the Summer Fete for a couple of years. Both these events have raised money for the Elsenham Community Association, and will continue to do so, benefitting all residents of the village. We are again running the Christmas market on 25 November and the sign-up is available from our website www.waytoomanybricks.co.uk, kindly supported by Stansted Golf World.

We are also already putting out feelers for the summer event on 22 June 2024, which includes live music! If you have some spare time, ideas or can loan items, and would like to be involved, please email wtmbricks@gmail.com. There are loads of jobs that we will need help with if this is to be a success.

THE AUBREY BUXTON NATURE RESERVE

By John Welham, Warden

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

We have cut all the meadow areas and removed the cut vegetation. This takes many hours of manual labour for the working parties who are also cutting meadow areas in the other EWT reserves across Uttlesford. We use a scythe mower, which is the kindest on all the species that are living amongst the vegetation, and it gives us a chance to watch the various mice, voles and other creatures scurry away to the borders and retained grassy areas.

The three main ponds are quite different from each other in appearance and the flora and fauna they support. The top pond is rich in plants and invertebrates such as water fleas and mayfly lava which indicate good water quality. It is regularly visited by the heron, but you will need to approach with stealth to see it. It is important that fish are not added to the pond as they prey on the smaller wildlife and reduce the diversity.

The middle pond appears stagnant and lacking in life, however, we want to do a proper assessment of it before acting. What looks visually appealing to us may not be the best for wildlife.

I know that certain paths in the reserve can become very muddy in autumn and winter, and we would like to improve these to give people a dry footing and to avoid the trampling of areas off the path. We have applied for funding for this and hope it will be obtained.



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HALF TERM HALLOWEEN!!

This spookitastic fun will be taking place every day from Saturday 21st to Sunday 29th October and this is going to be such an exciting event and you **MUST** pre-book, so make sure you do it **NOW** to avoid disappointment.

Tickets are only £10 each and there will be: -
A pumpkin patch
A pumpkin ball pit
Fancy dress competition
A Monster Mash show
A ghost train
Lots of spooky fun!!!
Hot food available

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.

Events like these are vital to the survival of our farm, 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.

Please 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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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

By Frances Lambert ✉ franceslambertnhw@btinternet.com



As we pass from summer to the autumn the daylight gets shorter and the nights draw in, and we need to think of making our homes safer in the dark.

A lot of people now have a ring doorbell to monitor people around the front of their house, which is a good thing, but don't forget to make the back of your house safer as well, with a camera or security light that comes on when you go out there, or alerts you when someone enters your garden.

Don't make it easy for an opportunist, keep ladders out of sight in your garage or chained and locked to your fence, or a stake or tree in your garden, as these can easily be used to get to a first-floor window that has been left open.

That wheely bin left outside by your fence makes it easy for an intruder to get over that fence. Look at your property and think, what can I do to make it more secure. Even the cardboard boxes we leave out for the dustman tells a burglar what we have just bought, so when you put them out for the dustman cut them, and turn them inside out, and don't advertise to a burglar what new items you have just bought or been given.

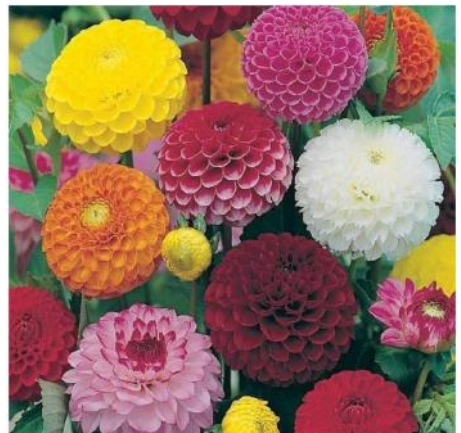
One last thing I have been asked to warn people about is flash or memory sticks, that have been left on the ground, if you find one do not pick it up and use it, as it may infect your computer with a deadly virus.

If you have any information regarding incidents contact Essex Police on ☎ 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on ☎ 0800 555 111.

GARDEN HINT *By Sue Johnson*

Overwintering Dahlias

Many parts of the UK will receive their first frosts this month (ours is no exception). Once the frost has blackened any dahlia foliage, cut down to ground level and lift tubers for frost-free overwintering. If your plants are in a mild or sheltered pocket, against a south facing wall, fence or hedge, dahlias can safely be left in the ground with a mulch of organic matter for protection.



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ELSENHAM COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

By Frances Lambert ✉ flambert@btinternet.com



Community Speed Watch has been busier than ever at home time for the building site on the Henham Road at 4pm. From 4-5 pm the rush to get home can mean over 40 cars an hour come down the Henham Road exceeding 36mph with over half of them exceeding 40mph with a top speed of 54 mph.

As this is hardly past the time the younger children go home from school, we have posted our statistics onto the local Police, and asked for their support.

A member of the building site waiting for his partner came up to speak to us, and we mentioned the high speeds of one company, who had their name on the side of their vans. We said we know he cannot speak to them as they are on the public highway, and not the site. He replied he had already spoken to them for speeding on the building site. We will continue to monitor and report the high speeds to the police, and hope they will soon be out there to monitor the speeds as well.

The speed for the whole of the village is 30 mph, and we ask everyone to respect this.

From The Parish Registers

Funerals:

- A Service of Thanksgiving on 25th August 2023 at Henham Church, followed by a cremation at Cam Valley Crematorium, Ronald William Newby, aged 88 years, formerly of Old Nazeing Road, Broxbourne.
- A Service of Thanksgiving on 7th September 2023 at Henham Church, followed by a cremation at Cam Valley Crematorium, Vivienne Goodvin, aged 88 years, formerly of Mountfitchet Care Home, Stansted.

Burial of Ashes:

- On Tuesday 15th August 2023 in Henham Churchyard, June Elizabeth Fayers.
- On Thursday 17th August 2023 in Elsenham Churchyard, Rose Marie Wright.

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

Vicar	01279 850480 louis.wilson@heuchurch.co.uk	Rev. Louis Wilson
Church Office	01279 814285	Anna Hicks
Church e-mail	office@heuchurch.co.uk	
Church web-site	www.heuchurch.co.uk	

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ELSENHAM VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

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



The other day I was reminded that Battle of Britain Day on 15 September was imminent when we remember the “Few”. It was on this day in 1940 that RAF Fighter Command claimed what proved to be a decisive victory over the German Luftwaffe saving this island from invasion. The war affected every part of the UK not least in Elsenham. Close to Debden Aerodrome, USAAF Stansted and the railway line, Elsenham was considered a prime target and bombs were dropped on and around the village on several occasions. German bombers were often seen flying East to West along the High Street on their way to London often chased by the RAF.

A Mosquito Fighter Bomber came down on the left hand side of Hall Road and a Hurricane crashed near Elsenham Hall, skidded across the meadow before burying its nose in a laurel hedge. The pilot climbed out of the wreckage and made his way up Hall Road to the Crown Inn. Asking “how far am I from Debden?” the locals told him “four miles as the crow flies but seven by road”. “Not bad” said the pilot “nearly made it!” After a phone call and a few pints no doubt, he was picked up and returned to base.

There was a lighter side to wartime life in the village. There was a makeshift NAAFI in the village hall which meant that beer had to be brought across the road from the Crown. One night, when supplies were midway between the two an aircraft flew along the High St prompting a loud shout of DOWN! The only damage was two broken pint glasses and the sad loss of the contents.

The above anecdotes are taken from “Elsenham at War”, a small booklet that was published to commemorate the 50th anniversary of VE Day. Long out of print, the whole 20 page booklet may be found on our website. Look for Elsenham’s War under the Miscellaneous tab. It will be well worth your time.

We would like to thank Mr John Bentley who gave us three clay lump blocks, saved from the scrapheap when his property was extended. These blocks were made from clay and straw moulded into a block and dried in the sun and several houses in Elsenham dating from the late 19th century are made from them. The blocks have now been donated to Saffron Walden Museum.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 8 November (8pm in the Memorial Hall). We will be joined by Roger Barrett from the Stansted Local History Society who will be coming along to relate the story of our neighbour Stansted Mountfitchet. This promises to be an interesting evening so please, do come along. Visitors are always welcome for a very modest two pounds and don’t forget, membership costs just five pounds for a full years’ meetings.

All are welcome.



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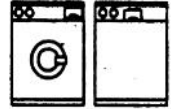


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ELSENHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

By Moyra Jackson ☎ 813385



The summer months are always considered to be a quiet time in a WI calendar – definitely not so at Elsenham WI. The end of August and beginning of September has been a whirl of meetings, outings, new speakers' day, a Federation lunch thrown in for good measure and our annual night out at Hunters Meet where we can strut our stuff on the dance floor!

Our last meeting was our Summer Party. The weather was lovely, and our entertainment came in the shape of the Silver Darlings – Essex's and possibly the world's only all-female shanty band. They put on a fabulous set and not only sung for us but told the stories behind shanty songs and their history. The Memorial Hall was full as we sang along, our voices joined by the delightful visitors we had from WIs in Great Hallingbury, the Guildhall Girls (Thaxted) and from across the border, Bishop's Stortford. Like many WI events you start off as strangers and end up with some lovely new friends and that happened at our party.

Our next meeting is a very topical subject – Menopause Matters. Jane Williams is coming along to share some stories, offer assistance and look at the lighter side of this complicated issue (yes, there can be one!). Every woman has, is going or will go through the menopause. All women are welcome to come along to this meeting and hear for yourself what Jane has to say. You never know, it may be just what you need.

Coming along to Elsenham WI is a really good way to meet new friends and while we are immensely proud to have a history of Jam and Jerusalem traditions, we are so much more than that and always happy to dispel any stereotypes associated with the WI. Why not come along (or come back) – visitors and new members are always welcome, and you can join at any time throughout the year.



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

Elsenham WI – There's a lot going on!

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THE 'AFTER' PROJECT

By Victoria

✉ Victoria@victoriathecelebrant.com 🌐 www.victoriathecelebrant.com

It is often after the funeral which is the hardest time for the recently bereaved. The initial shock or deep grief can have a numbing effect and self-preservation kicks in as you're suddenly spun into conversations about funerals, music choices, differing family opinions, and probate. Planning the service can effectively give you a 'job' to do. Something to organise, often whilst you are feeling totally surreal.

And then you go home, after the service. Perhaps to an empty house, perhaps to a family who have lost a parental guide, a sibling, or a carer, and you go... "Now what? How do I do this?" Friends say to pop round if you need anything, but you don't want to be a burden, and family slowly begin to pick up their own lives, perhaps many miles away, because as much as we want it to, life doesn't stop, even though, for us, it can feel like life as we know it has ended.

It was following a conversation with the daughter of a family I have recently looked after, after giving them a call to see how they were a few weeks after the service, when we got talking about how hard it is to find information on local activity and support groups which may be of some help to their recently widowed parent.

So, I put a shoutout on social media, got some amazing feedback, and our local communities came good. We are supported by so many kind and caring people, including our local TouchPoint Stansted and Let's Talk Stansted. These organisations go from strength to strength, creating safe spaces and encouraging connections in our community. But so many people don't know what's out there, or how to access the help which is available.

So, I started collating the groups available in our surrounding areas on my website, covering Stansted, Bishop's Stortford, Sawbridgeworth, Harlow, Dunmow and Saffron Walden. It's only early days, but I hope it may help someone find a new hobby, or someone to talk to, or help those supporting them point them in a new direction 'after.'

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until Thursday 5 October. Physical copies of the consultation are available by contacting the Passenger Transport team via email or calling 0345 743 0430.

ST MARY'S CHURCH ELSENHAM

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Thought For The Month by Charles Willbe

On the internet I found lists of “best known”, “best liked”, “most popular” parables but only the “Good Samaritan” was on all of them. I reckon it should also be on a “least understood” list.

Jesus' disciples had just visited a hostile Samaritan village, so they asked Jesus “do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?”. A gross over-reaction which shows just how much the Jews and Samaritans hated each other.

The religious leaders and authorities hated Jesus and were trying to get rid of Him, so one of them tried to catch Jesus out by asking “what must I DO to inherit eternal life?” Jesus replied “What is written in the Law?” and, being a lawyer, the man could quote from scripture “Love the Lord your God ... Love your neighbour as yourself.” DO that and “you will live” says Jesus.

The problem is that the lawyer cannot love God with all his heart; he cannot love his neighbour as he loves himself ... so he won't live. Perhaps if he can get a nice narrow definition of “neighbour”, he can fool himself that he is doing what God says he should. So, he asks “who is my neighbour” and Jesus answers him with this parable of the Good Samaritan.

A man is walking alone along a very dodgy road and is beaten up by robbers who strip him of everything of value and leave him to die. A priest, a teacher of God's word, walks past and doesn't help him. A Levite, one of the people who, like this lawyer, were support staff for the priests wouldn't

help him either. And now a despised Samaritan comes along. But he has pity on the Jew, who probably despised him; he goes to help him, uses his wine to sterilise the wounds and his oil to ease their pain, uses his own clothes for bandages. He puts the man on his donkey and he himself walks to the inn where he looks after him. Next day he pays for a few weeks' board and lodging for the Jew and writes a blank cheque for further expenses.

In other words, the Samaritan cares, takes pity, risks his own life, interrupts his business, personally looks after the man and spends his own money on the man's care, underwriting the full expense.

That is what it means to love your neighbour, says Jesus. If you want to earn eternal life by what you DO then that is what is necessary. DO that not just once but every day of your life.

We know the world would be a much better place if everyone acted like that but none of us can ... any more than the man left to die by the roadside could do anything to save his own life. His salvation was the love and care freely and abundantly given, despite its cost, by someone that he probably despised.

We cannot DO anything to “inherit eternal life”. We also must receive salvation as an undeserved GIFT from God.

Charles

CHURCH EVENTS IN OUR VILLAGES OCTOBER 2023

Church Services

Sunday 1st October

- 10:15 All Together All Age Service,
Elsenham Village Hall (Harvest)
18:00 Sunday@6, OSCA, Henham

Sunday 8th October

- 08:45 Prayer Book Holy Communion,
Elsenham Church
10:00 Morning Service, Ugley Church
10:15 Holy Communion,
Elsenham Village Hall
18:00 Sunday@6, OSCA, Henham

Sunday 15th October

- 08:45 Prayer Book Morning Prayer,
Elsenham Church
10:00 Prayer Book Communion,
Ugley Church
10:15 Morning Service,
Elsenham Village Hall
18:00 Sunday@6, OSCA, Henham

Sunday 22nd October

- 10:00 Morning Service, Ugley Church
10:15 Morning Service,
Elsenham Village Hall
16:00 Time to Remember Service,
Elsenham Church

Sunday 29th October

- 08:45 Prayer Book Morning Prayer,
Elsenham Church
10:00 Morning Service,
Ugley Church
10:15 Morning Service,
Elsenham Village Hall
18:00 Sunday@6, OSCA, Henham

*You are warmly invited to a
'Time To Remember' Service
at St Mary's Church, Elsenham
on Sunday 22nd October at 4.00 pm*

A chance to remember loved ones
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All welcome.

Other Regular Events

SUNDAYS:

St Peter's Junior Church
St Peter's, Ugley 10.00am
Sundays: 8th & 15th

Elsenham & Henham Sunday Club/
Explorers (Reception-Y5)
(Y1-Y6) Old Frank's, Elsenham
10.15am Sundays: 8th & 15

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

Crammin' (Y10-Y13)
OSCA, Henham 6.00pm followed by
7.00pm at OSCA Library, Henham
Sundays: 1st, 8th & 15th

MID-WEEK AND SATURDAY:

Start the Week with Prayer
Church Hall, Henham 9.30am
Mondays: 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th

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

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

Little Fishes Pre-School Group
Church Hall, Henham 10.30am
Thursday: 5th, 12th & 19th

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

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

Afternoon Tea
OSCA, Henham 2.00pm
Saturday: 21st

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ELSENHAM FLOWER SHOW SOCIETY

By Sue Johnson ☎ 812704

✉ susanjohnson09@hotmail.co.uk



Now that the Flower Show is over, everything packed away for another year, we have time to reflect on the day and how it all went.

We had just 25 adult exhibitors and two children entering the Show. Many of these exhibitors were either lovely ladies of the W.I. or members of our Flower Show Committee. Of the nine children's exhibits originally promised, only three turned up on the day.

The Show is a traditional Village Flower Show. As well as classes for flowers, vegetables and fruit, we also offer opportunities to show handicrafts, baking and produce, photography and flower arranging. So even if you don't have much of a garden, there are always other classes to enter for something different.

We would like to know what YOU would like us to do to make our Flower Show more inviting and interesting.

Some thought that we did not advertise enough. There were posters on notice boards throughout the village, including the new allotments at Smith Road. We put in numerous articles in the village magazine, even more on Facebook AND we had articles in advance in the local press.

It takes an awful lot of organising to put on our Village Flower Show, not to mention all the time and effort, money, and backache.

We would like to thank all of you who DID support our Show this year, either by entering, helping out or just coming along on the day to enjoy a catchup with friends over a cup of tea, a home-made cake and a sight of the beautiful exhibits on the show benches.

If you would like to find out more about the Society and how you can help, please do get in touch. We need new ideas, which we know we must have in order to survive. Please do get in touch by phone (812704), e-mail (susanjohnson09@hotmail.co.uk) or via our **EFSS Facebook page**.

Elsenham Flower Show Society would like to acknowledge, above all, the sterling work of Alex Lucas who is sadly leaving the Committee after much hard work over the years. We will miss you, Alex. Thank you so much.



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As I write this on station at the end of summer, it seems that summer has finally arrived. The hot weather has seen a small increase in wildfires, and we have been on standby to support around the county with our 6-wheel off-road vehicle.

Even in the hot weather, the crew continue to train hard to ensure that we can react in the quickest way to any event. Our training this month has been heavily focused on reacting to building fires and even aircraft fires. We were fortunate enough to be able to attend Stansted Airport to train alongside our airport fire service colleagues on green watch. They put us through our paces to simulate entry to an internal aircraft fire and it was a great exercise to be part of.

The crew have attended a whole host of incidents over the last few months and it is always a highlight when there is a positive outcome. Our crew was called by a quick-thinking resident who saw smoke coming from a roof. Due to the speed of the crew from Stansted, who attended first, the fire was contained. A rather special furry four-legged friend, Murphy, was rescued completely unharmed from the ground floor of the property. Murphy became the centre of attention and is now forever a mascot of the Stansted fire station.

As ever, our crew continue to visit homes and carry out fire safety visits. These are free to any Essex resident and can be booked on our website ([link below](#)). This is a Government and ECFRS initiative to get a working smoke alarm in every residential dwelling, so please feel free to get in touch.

[Home Fire Safety \(essex-fire.gov.uk\)](#)

Lastly, as a station we are keen to get out and support and meet our community. If you have any community events where you would like to see us, please get in touch.

Stay safe and best wishes from all at Stansted Fire Station.



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NATURAL OUTLOOK ON OCTOBER

By Heather Salvidge 🐞 814153



Several years ago I agreed to lead a village walk around the end of October to show people the beautiful autumn colours. Ha, nada! The leaves were all still dark green. But it was a nice walk. This year could be different as some parts of our spindle were already turning pinkish by the end of August; we'll see. However, recent Octobers have been very wet with anything between heavy rain and drizzle and either 'icy' or 'warm', with very strong winds and even a named storm. Exception can be "the little summer of St. Luke" said to be on or around the 18th October. Even if this only lasts one day there are often short, warm periods up to 20C or more.

These warm spells bring out a variety in our garden, a glittering southern hawker dragon fly and the smaller red, common darter usually patrolling our small pond and depending on what sort of summer there has been, large white butterflies, red admirals and/or commas and peacocks. After dark, if it is sitting in enough light to see it, I have found a large yellow underwing moth - forewings dark brown with some markings and, when shown, the underwings are yellowish orange with a brown rim. Sometimes we have had "a good bird day" in the garden with 16 species noted and sometimes, on other mornings, not one.

Two birds that are around in our garden and the village e.g. in Station Road where there are long gardens, are Sid and Sylvia, a local pair of sparrow hawks – I assume they are the same pair. In the breeding season we see Sid more often as it seems to be his job 'to get food for the children', often sparrows or other small birds. Now he and Sylvia are hunting their own food, more likely blackbirds, starlings or collard doves. Sylvia is bigger than Sid and has a grey/brown back, wings and tail with barred underparts. Sid had blue/grey upper parts, a long tail and barred reddish /brown underparts. They swoop to arrive and pounce on their prey and sometimes miss it or as both do, arrive and sit on the rose arch, waiting, sometimes for at least half an hour.

Getting out and about on footpaths in the wider countryside, you see that some fields have already been ploughed and left with stubble or ploughed and sown or just tilled. In the fields beyond Catmere End, I have seen huge flocks of chaffinches and other, mixed, flocks, some, too, on the south side of the Aubrey Buxton reserve and, nearer home a charm of 40+ goldfinches on the very big walnut, a few gardens away. We also go to nature reserves, mostly with water e.g. Amwell beyond Ware, Welney just inside the Norfolk County boundary and Rye Meads Site of Special Scientific Interest, again in Herts, next to Rye House Karting Track where young Lewis Hamilton learnt to race.

Then there are spiders; I have never known so many about as this year. I only know the names of a few e.g. the garden spider, the female is bigger than the male. The orb web spider and the daddy-long-legs spider 8 legs instead of 6. Then there are those that live in the conservatory and weave hammock-like webs to wrap their trapped prey in and those that hunt in the garden killing unwanted pests. Thanks for that.



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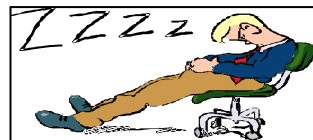


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SUNDRIES



Sadly, the village of Elsenham has had more than its fair share of law-breaking events. Before reflecting on the present situation, I go back to an event which occurred in our village during the 1984-1985 miner's strike. I am sure you will remember the time when Arthur Scargill and the National Union of Miners (NUM) were constantly on the national news. Many will remember how that bit of unpleasantness affected the entire country. What you may not be aware of is how Elsenham made the radio and TV during that time.

At the bottom of Isabel Drive there is a small, grassed area. Once stood there, "The Gables", the property of a Mr. Bill Sewell. To the rear was a large lorry park which housed his many haulage lorries. His haulage company would move almost anything, including coal.

There were strong objections from the NUM and their supporters to these lorries transporting "the black stuff". One evening it all came to a head. Under the cover of darkness, the lorry park was broken into. Fuel lines and oil lines were cut and there was one hell of a mess. I do not remember anyone being found guilty to this act of vandalism.

In 2020 what occurs now may not be prompted by industrial action but still damage is done, and people suffer. We see examples of wanton destruction around our village. During raging inflation, the cost of righting these wrongs is soaring. It behoves all residents to keep an eye open and report anything that is seen. The actions of a mindless minority are costing us dearly. Do not be tempted to investigate yourself. If you have information regarding incidents contact Essex Police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

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



The club's 1st XI eventually ended runners-up to Matching Green in the Premier Division of the Herts & Essex Border League. It was down to Match 18 (the final match) but Matching Green did not falter. All in all a great season for the 1st XI with plenty of runs especially for Rory McGurk, Nick Price and Jacob Talbot. The 2nd XI comfortably won Division 3 under the guidance of Andrew Mackinlay who continued to encourage our younger players. They did not disappoint by batting, bowling and fielding very well. The junior section finished off a very successful season with a Presentation Day and BBQ. The U14s won the West Essex Cup and the U13s came runners-up in the cup. The junior section committee has already met and planned for winter indoor nets and the 2024 season. The club will continue with friendly matches during September followed by a general tidy. Groundsman Phil Maule has provided the club with a great cricket wicket and outfield all year. We look forward to a busy winter of quizzes and fund raising. The club will celebrate 50 years of cricket at Stansted House next season. If you are interested in joining our club please contact me.

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By Stewart Pimblett, Chairman ☎ 812359



“The season of mists and mellow fruitfulness” wrote the famous poet John Keats. Harvest is gathered in, the children have returned to school and the days are getting shorter, a reminder that winter is just around the corner.

However, as I write this article in early September, we are in the middle of a heatwave and the thermometer is nudging on 30 degrees Celsius. It might be hard to imagine, but by the time you read this, Christmas will be only a matter of a few weeks away.

As a farmer, I always particularly enjoyed this time of year; all was safely gathered in and we could reflect on a year's hard work with its highs and lows, giving thanks to God for all he provides, which we so often take for granted.

I remember Harvest Festival with all the churches in the land being adorned with wonderful flower arrangements, fruit, vegetables, jams and pickles, which were later distributed to the elderly and others in need. Today we go to the supermarket to donate produce for the food banks to give to those battling the cost-of-living crisis. Finally, a reminder that our art show will be held on the weekend of 14 and 15 October at St. Mary's Church. I hope to see you there.

ELSENHAM EAGLES

Elsenham Action Group for Local Environmental Sustainability

✉ elsenham.action@btinternet.com



We hope that you are enjoying our pull-out “Recycling” information from the September issue of Elsenham News and that you are finding it useful. Many thanks for that to our very talented and hard working team.

At our last meeting in August we decided to form a “Household Energy Reduction Group” and an “Environmental Group” to run alongside the “Recycling Group”. The household energy reduction group will aim to provide information to help us reduce our energy use, thus helping to save both our money and the planet.

The environmental group will concern itself with biodiversity and perhaps broader environmental concerns. Currently we're hoping to establish more areas where the grass is allowed to grow longer. This would enable wildflowers to bloom and therefore encourage bees and other pollinating insects.

What we're doing is all about creating a more sustainable village for us all. The more members we have the bigger and quicker our impact and the less required of any individual.

If any of the ideas above are of interest to you please get in touch at the email address above. We would love to hear from you.



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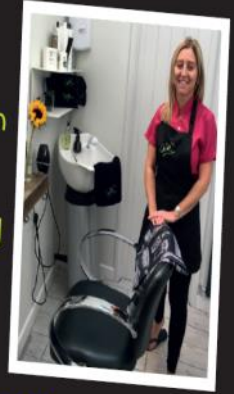
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Our volunteers collect food donated by local supermarkets and retailers that would otherwise go to waste, and distribute it free to the community

The Community Food Share is all about reducing food waste and is for everyone. We have fruit, vegetables, meat, baked items and more... and everything is absolutely FREE!

Where? Elsenham Bowls Club (off Leigh Drive)
When? Every Tuesday, 9.30am-10.30am

The produce has a short shelf life, so please only take what you will be able to use in the next few days.

If you would like to get involved and join our team of volunteers, please call 07572 114882 or email info@thetouchpoint.org

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✉ info@thetouchpoint.org
🌐 www.thetouchpoint.org



JULY AT U3A STANSTED

Eileen Quinn ☎ 07874 385541 ✉ stanstedu3a@gmail.com



In August the Garden Group paid a special visit to Heyrons, High Easter, a former farmyard and barn converted into a house and garden, a 45-year labour of love. The house looks onto a beautiful walled courtyard with glimpses, through an archway, of the gardens. These comprise mature trees under planted with herbaceous borders, a rose garden, a former lawn tennis court, a dry garden and views across the Essex countryside. They were welcomed and put at ease by their hosts, Catherine and Richard Wollaston.



On their tour Richard explained how each part had developed according to family need and enthused over future plans; next being creating a wildlife pond which the Group hopes to see on a future visit. Afterwards the group lingered over a hugely generous tea with seemingly endless supplies of cakes.

What a great morning! Our fourth Saturday seminar this year, August 19th, with Professor Patrick Parrinder, was a huge sell out success. H.G.Wells, Utopian, English novelist, journalist, sociologist and historian, best known for his science fiction novels such as *The Time Machine* and *The War of the Worlds*, was also a prolific writer of many other novels and short stories. He grew from shop work apprentice to world famous author. A larger-than-life character, influential and energetic, reaching in his lifetime, what would now be worldwide rock star fame. Our next Saturday Seminar, on 14th October, will be “An Introduction to Venetian Painting” with Jo Brooks. Details can be found on the website.

The speaker at the October 19th General Meeting will be Ian Currie, Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society. Ian is a full-time weatherman, broadcaster, columnist, editor of the *Weather Eye* magazine and runs a website www.frostedearth.co.uk which includes daily weather forecasts. His talk is called *Gales, Greenhouses and Global Warming*.

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THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

By Ken McDonald, Secretary  www.hundredparishes.org.uk



Thatch has been used as a roofing material for thousands of years. It was once common in rural areas because the material was cheap and readily available. Now, a thatched roof is much more expensive but the skill of the thatcher can still be seen throughout The Hundred Parishes. A thatcher undertakes a five-year apprenticeship with a master thatcher before becoming a master thatcher himself.



Rickling Green work in progress

Most properties in the UK use either long straw, wheat reed or water reed. Many thatched properties are listed and when re-thatching is needed there is a requirement to use the same type of material as before.

In medieval times wheat grew to nearly 6 feet tall, while today's modern farming methods produce shorter-stemmed wheat and this has weakened the straw and its longevity. Now specialist growers produce taller-stemmed varieties, grown especially for thatching.

There is some debate about the longevity of a thatched roof. To some extent, life expectancy relates to the material used, but it is also dependent on factors such as pitch, orientation and air circulation. A good thatch will typically last from 20 to 50 years, providing excellent insulation. The ridge, along the top of the roof, will last between 10 and 20 years, so requires more frequent attention.



Nuthampstead - The Woodman



Thorley - The Old Thatch

Traditionally a new layer of material is laid over the seasoned roof; this is called "spar coating". The bundles of straw taken up onto the roof are called "yelms". Twisted hazel sticks known as "spars" or "gads" are used to secure the thatch in place. A thatcher may mark his work by placing a distinctive straw finial on the ridge.

Thatch appears not only on houses. There are several thatched pubs, a thatched church at Duddenhoe End in the parish of Elmdon, and a partly-thatched village hall in Ashdon.



Little Hadham - Thatched Cottages

The Hundred Parishes is 450 square miles of northwest Essex, northeast Hertfordshire and southern Cambridgeshire that is largely unspoilt and is richly endowed with many fine examples of agricultural and built heritage. The area has shared a common history which shaped and preserved its distinctive landscape of small and medium-sized farms linked by winding lanes and ancient rights of way to hamlets, villages and then to small market towns. For more information visit www.hundredparishes.org.uk.



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www.hairlosslaserclinic.co.uk

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

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

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

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

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ELSENHAM BOWLS AND SOCIAL CLUB

By Trevor Hackett 📞 07445 437437



I would firstly like to thank Sue Waite for submitting the bowls club articles over the last few years.

By the time you read this, the bowls season will have finished for the year. Our competition winners will be celebrating at our presentation dinner on October 14 in the club house, supported by other members of the club as they receive their trophies.

The men came first but one in the final of the Memorial Shield competition (which includes 19 clubs in our part of Essex). They also reached the semi-final of the Widdop Cup. The ladies reached the semi-final of the Albert Crabb County Competition. Congratulations go to all players involved in these competitions.

In the leagues, Elsenham won the Essex & Herts Seniors League for the third year running. We were also well placed in the Northwest Essex and Ladies' Leagues. Overall, a successful season for the club this year.

On the social front we have a live music artist booked for every other month during 2024, along with our usual quiz and bingo nights. The first music night is with Pete Webb on January 13. Pete is one of the leading Elvis tribute artists in the UK. He has been performing Elvis all over the world for 20 years. Tickets are now on sale in the bar and from Trevor Hackett (07445 437437), priced at just £6.

In March we have an excellent guitarist and former Beatles tribute act member, Paul Sharp, covering music from the 60s onwards. This will be followed in May by Gary Benjafield, a leading Niel Diamond tribute act. Watch this space for details of the other acts booked during next year.

Our crib players will have started their league games by now, playing in the local leagues on a Tuesday evening. The darts players will have switched from a Thursday night to a Wednesday night, allowing short mat bowls to be played on Thursday nights.

I look forward to seeing you in the club house during the winter

Tennis Club Weekly Activities (article on page 45)

Tuesday evening – 6.30pm cardio tennis (non members welcome)

Tuesday evening – 7.30pm club night

Wednesday morning – 10am causal play

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

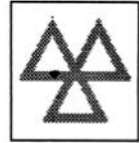
Thursday evening – 7.30pm team practice sessions

Friday morning – 10am casual play

Sunday afternoon – 2pm casual play

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ELSENHAM TENNIS CLUB

By Petra Studholme ☎814667



Quiz Night – back by popular demand – Saturday, 28 October, 7.30 for 8pm at the Bowls Club. Of course with Trevor, our quiz master, Ploughman's supper, raffle, licensed bar. £9 per brain and 8 people per table please. To book, please email mail@elsenhامتennisclub.co.uk. Please book early to avoid disappointment as we were fully booked last time.

AGM

We held our AGM on Monday 4 September and there were some changes to the committee. We still have Mike Stiles as our chairperson, Linda Steer as Club Secretary, Paul Burt as our treasurer and Petra Studholme as our Membership Secretary. Ordinary members are Emily Bloom and Steve Smith and Gavin Strickfuss, who we would like to welcome onto the committee. We would also thank both Stuart Mackeonis and Kyle Robinson for their efforts on the committee over the past years.

Essex Small Club League matches

The Men's team is currently leading by 3 points in Division 1. Our Mixed team has only played 2 matches so far, positioning it in the middle of the league table.

Coaching – individual and group sessions

We have individual and group coaching sessions, cardio run by our dedicated and experienced coach Steve Smith. Get in touch with him via email: stevesmith865@hotmail.com or call/text 07790 561 817. Please note that Cardio is open to non-members. Cardio is a great way to get or stay fit. Our coach's choice of music is sometimes questionable, but everyone is definitely having fun and is getting a great workout.

Rackets and balls

Steve has high quality rackets, reasonably priced for you to try before you purchase as well as Dunlop balls.

Half-price membership from 1 October 2023 to 31 March 2024

We are offering half-price membership for all our subscriptions so full membership would be only £35, senior £21.25 and under 18s £8 for example. Other membership packages are also available for couples and the whole family. Please note that you won't see these half-price packages yet on our website, they will come online on 1 October, this is just a pre-announcement for those interested to join. 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.

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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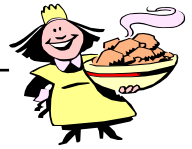
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1 tablespoon vegetable oil
1 onion, finely chopped
1 inch (2.5 cm) piece fresh root ginger, grated
2 cloves garlic
1lb 2oz (500g) lean lamb mince
2 teaspoons ground turmeric
1 teaspoon chilli powder
1 tablespoon garam masala
3 tablespoons tomato puree
¾ pint (450ml) lamb stock
4oz (125g) frozen peas
Salt and pepper
2 tablespoons chopped fresh coriander, plus extra leaves to garnish

Heat the oil in a large heavy-based frying pan. Add the onion and ginger and cook over a low heat for 5 minutes or until softened. Add the garlic and minced lamb, breaking the mince into pieces by pressing with the back of a wooden spoon. Cook for 10 minutes or until the lamb browns.

Pour off any excess fat from the pan. Add the turmeric, chilli, garam masala and tomato puree, then stir-fry for 1-2 minutes. Add the stock and bring to the boil, stirring, then reduce the heat and simmer uncovered, for 10 minutes or until slightly reduced.

Add the peas, then simmer for 5-10 minutes longer. Remove from the heat, stir in the coriander and season. Garnish with coriander.

CHEF'S RECOMMENDATIONS: Vegetable stock works fine if you do not have lamb stock. Serve the traditional way, with basmati rice, cucumber raita, mango chutney and poppadoms.

EXPERIENCED FUNDRAISER REQUIRED

By *Elsenham Parish Council* ✉ louise.epc@gmail.com ☎ 07456 791727

Elsenham Parish Council are seeking an experienced fundraiser to assist us with raising funds to support the design and construction of the New Community Centre. We are aware of various bodies which have grants and monies available but lack the expertise on how to access these.

If you think you could support us with this fabulous project, please send an email to our Parish Clerk, Louise Johnson, ✉ louise.epc@gmail.com



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'Connecting will change everything... Lennox is a troubled teenager with no family. Ava is eight months pregnant and fleeing her abusive husband. Heather is a grieving mother and cancer sufferer. They don't know each other, but when a meteor streaks over Edinburgh, all three suffer instant, catastrophic strokes... only to wake up the following day in hospital, miraculously recovered.'

When news reaches them of an octopus-like creature washed up on the shore near where the meteor came to earth, Lennox senses that some extra-terrestrial force is at play. With the help of Ava, Heather and a journalist, Ewan, he rescues the creature they call 'Sandy' and they go on the run. They aren't the only ones with an interest in the alien ... close behind are Ava's husband, the police and a government unit that wants to capture the creature, at all costs. And Sandy's arrival may have implications beyond anything anyone could imagine... ..' So says the blurb on the back of the book.

'A delicious demanding departure from Doug Johnstone—out of this world' Val McDermid

The Space Between Us was this month's choice for the book group.

Whilst having its roots in science-fiction, this story goes beyond a 'first contact' with a being from another planet, into a story which is a look at human nature, a need to find our place in life and the trials and tribulations we may endure.

The story begins as our three main protagonists face very different situations. Lennox is dealing with local bullies. Ava is trying to escape an abusive marriage. Heather is deep in grief, mourning the loss of her daughter, failing health and is contemplating suicide. They have only one thing in common – they are outside when a mysterious light passes over Edinburgh, one which causes people to black out and to suffer from debilitating, if not fatal, strokes. However, the three recover and make a strong connection with each other and with 'Sandy.'

The communication between Lennox and Sandy is reminiscent of the bond between ET and Elliot in the 80s movie ET and the film 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind' but this story does manage to be original and enjoyable. There's a bit more to Sandy than wanting to go home or just making contact. I guess Stephen Spielberg might be interested in making the film—we'll have to wait and see!

This is lyrical writing, a heartwarming, fast paced look at friendships and finding a place to belong and a good read even for those who don't read Sci-Fi. We all thought the ending of this book was not conclusive and a bit weak but have since discovered it is vol 1 of The Enceladons Trilogy with vol 2 coming next March.

Editorial Information

Articles

The **last day** for editors to receive articles, advertising and letters, which must contain the author's name and address (which may be withheld), is the 8th of each month.

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

Copy submitted after the 8th may not be accepted but will, if deemed appropriate, be held over to the next month. We are happy to receive hand written articles which ideally should reach us earlier than the 8th to allow for scanning etc.

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

Please submit all articles, adverts, letters and queries to the editorial team at:
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 by email (on a pdf) at no charge, or through the post at a cost of £13 per annum. Contact elsenhamnews@hotmail.co.uk

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The costs are as follows:

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

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

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**Gary Williams
Emma Bailey
Marion Giles
Patricia Davis
Anne White
Nyaradzo Chabata
Angie Wenlock
David Newland**

Previous issues of Elsenham News are available on the ECA Website

UPCOMING EVENTS

Art Exhibition and sale, St Mary's Church October 14 & 15
 Act of Remembrance Memorial Garden November 11
 Elsenham Christmas Market, Golf World Stansted November 25
 Boxing Day Ramble December 26

VILLAGE CONTACTS

Airport Roadside Parking		0800 731 2385
Beavers	1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com	
Bowls Club	Therese Clear	816535 or 07759 158859
Brownies	elsenhambrownies@gmail.com	
Church Office (Old Frank's, High St, Elsenham)	Anna Hicks	814285
County Councillor (Stansted)	Ray Gooding	813103
Cricket Club	David Brown	831011
Cub Scouts	1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com	
ECA (Chairman)	Allan Hathaway	813385
ECA (Secretary)	Moyra Jackson	647351
ECA Website	www.ElsenhamCommunityAssociation.org.uk	
Elsenham Surgery	www.elsenhamsurgery.nhs.uk	814730
Elsenham C of E Primary School	Linda Todd Headteacher	813198
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Memorial Hall Bookings	Cheryl Rae	817834
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator	Frances Lambert	07771 728332
	franceslambertnhw@btinternet.com	
Parish Clerk - Louise Johnson	louise.epc@gmail.com	07456 791727
Elsenham Parish Council Website	www.elsenham-pc.gov.uk	
Police		101
Post Office		812175
Rainbows	elsenhamrainbows@gmail.com	
Scouts	1sthenhamandelsenham@gmail.com	
St Mary's Fabric Fund	Elizabeth Barker	813543
Tennis Club	Petra Studholme	814667
Tots & Toddlers	Dawn Temple	07944 841358
Uttlesford District Councillors (for Elsenham & Henham)	Petrina Lees	816675
Village Hall Bookings	Bianca Donald	07941 880279
Womens Institute Secretary	elsenhamvillagehall@gmail.com	
WI	Gill Hathaway	813385
Youth Football Club (Chairman)	Facebook	
	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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