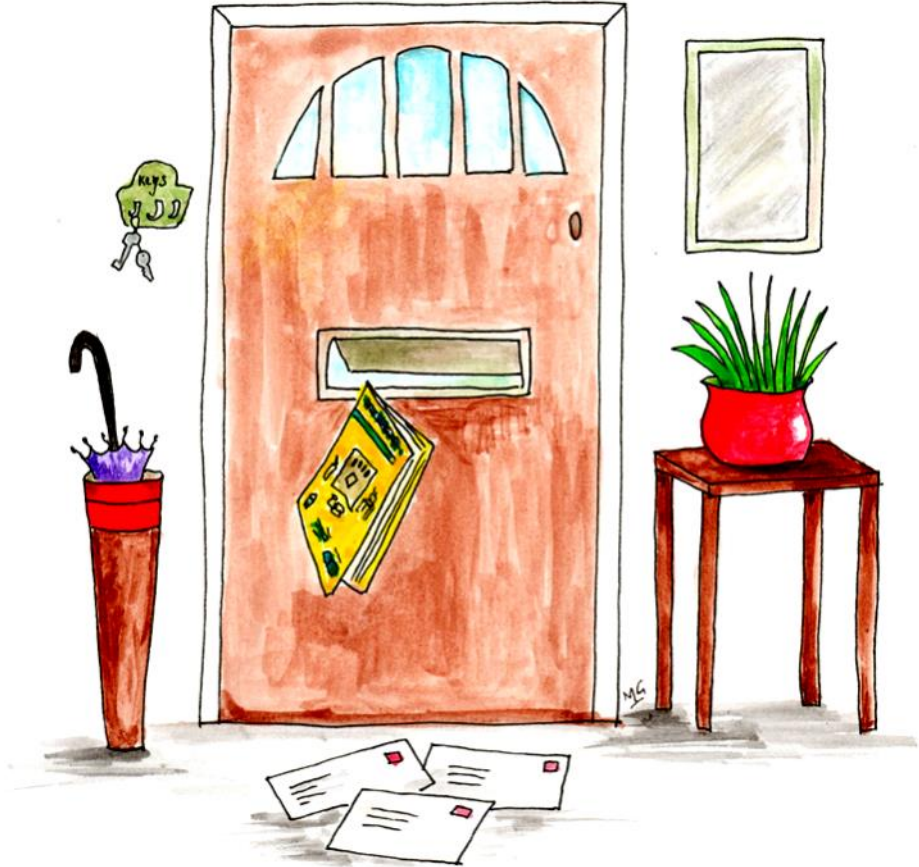


Elsenham News



WE'RE BACK!

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September 2020

75p where sold

Please note that following government advice regarding Covid-19, all regular activities that would normally take place in the Memorial Hall or the Village Hall have been cancelled until further notice.

The following groups or activities are suspended until further notice:

Beavers
Brownies
Community Choir
Cubs
Guides
Life Drawing
Line Dance
Nordic Walking
Rainbows
Shape to the Beat
Tots & Toddlers
Yoga
Zumba
Mobile library visits (Stansted Library has reopened)
Village Café, tea, coffee and lunch

Some groups are meeting online or in a limited way

Church services, little fishes and special events (please see page 25)
Elsenham Tennis Club activities (please see page 43)
Elsenham & Stansted Hall Cricket Club training & fixtures (see website)
Kick Boxing (on Playing Field)
WI (online, please see page 37)

Parish Council meetings are being held by Zoom. The next meeting is on Monday 7 September. Contact Louise Johnson for information by email on ✉ louise.epc@gmail.com

THE NEWS REPORT

From The Editors



We are delighted to be back in print, we hope you enjoy it too. A big thank you to our vast team of collators and deliverers who have stepped back in to help.

In this magazine we have a mix of the usual and the new, some continuity and some change.

Sadly, the Macmillan Coffee Morning that usually takes place in the Bowls Club in September has had to be cancelled, see p7 , but you can still support this wonderful charity. We hope you will.

If you've been working from home for the last few months you've maybe realised how much goes on in the village. If you'd like to be part of that, and of course with no commuting you would have time to spare, then consider becoming a Parish Councillor, see p11 for details.

One of the good things that came out of lockdown was the creation of the Elsenham Good Neighbours Network. See p19 to see just how much good it did (and to acknowledge what a great village we live in).

As the summer moves into autumn, you might want to take a look at p39 that has information from UCAB about keeping your home warm in the coming autumn and winter months.

We have our regular features such as Ray's Reflections, Natural Outlook and the update from the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. We're very grateful to all our contributors. If you would like to contribute something to the magazine, either on a regular basis or just as a one-off, do get in touch at elsenhamnews@hotmail.com, we'd love to hear from you.

Finally, we need to mention our advertisers, without whose support we couldn't produce this printed magazine. From tutors, to gardeners, window cleaners to will writers, there are loads of useful local services advertising in the magazine. If you do contact them, please tell them you found them in *Elsenham News*.

We will see you next month, whether in print or back to PDF we don't yet know.

The Editors

Regular features

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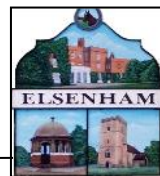
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Elsenham Community Association Memorial Hall

The Management Committee of the Elsenham Community Association (ECA) met in July 2020 and has made a complete and comprehensive risk assessment based on information received from Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) with regard to the required standard before opening of the hall. The situation is:

- 1) the hall is run by volunteers and there are no 'staff' present on site at opening times (unlike the Bowls Club or The Crown public house) to ensure all areas and surfaces are kept clean to the required standard before and after a hiring;
- 2) the hall's capacity given its size is capable of 15 seated and 20 standing with the current two metre ruling;
- 3) the kitchen and toilet area are situated in such a way as to prohibit a one way system to allow social distancing to be achieved.

It is with regret the hall will remain closed with no permitted entry until the Management Committee reviews the situation again towards the end of September 2020, when hopefully the situation will be such that we can reopen.

If you have any questions with regard to the hall please feel free to ring me and I will endeavour to answer them for you.

Thank you

Allan Hathaway, ECA Chairman

After lockdown, we're delighted to announce that Saffron Screen plans to reopen in early September! We've been busy planning to make it as safe and as comfortable as possible for customers, staff and volunteers. Here's how your Saffron Screen experience will look and feel a bit different from normal:



- reduced auditorium capacity with empty seats between booked groups.
- staff and volunteers will be COVID-19-trained, wearing face masks and/or face visors,.
- New queuing and one-way systems in place, but there'll be plenty of signage .
- hand sanitiser available around the venue and thorough cleaning after screening.
- ventilation system set to "high capacity" to maximise air flow through the auditorium.

We'll also be asking you to do your bit as well; by booking tickets in advance, wearing your mask at all times and by following all the usual social distancing rules. Check our website and social media channels for further information and we look forward to seeing you soon!

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Deciding whether or not to go ahead with this year's coffee morning has been a really tough decision, especially as Macmillan are encouraging us to do so. Our Coffee Morning should have been on Friday 25 September.

However, for those of you that have been to our coffee mornings, you will appreciate just how busy they are and that the majority of people that come and support us, are of an age that have been shielding.

Therefore, we have taken the really tough decision to **cancel this year's coffee morning**, as we would never forgive ourselves if we did anything that enabled this dreaded disease to spread.

The good people of Elsenham and the surrounding area have always been incredibly supportive of our coffee morning and it's because of you that we have raised getting on for £20,000 over the years and every penny is always needed by Macmillan.

So this year, we are asking you to make yourselves a cuppa, grab a scrummy piece of cake, fire up your computer/laptop/mobile/tablet or whatever and key in **Macmillan Cancer Support** and then **donate** and please give whatever you can in the way that is most suitable for you.

We hope you appreciate what a difficult decision this has been. Thank you.





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ELSENHAM PARISH COUNCIL 3 AUGUST 2020

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



Sadly, since the last Parish Council meeting, a former Parish Councillor, Cecil Harold Ludar-Smith, has died. Cecil Ludar-Smith took office in June 1979 and was an active member of the Parish Council for many years and he also held the position of village postmaster.

Councillor Peter Snow has left the Parish Council due to personal issues, his expertise on transport will be greatly missed.

The Parish Council has two vacancies. If anyone is interested in joining please reply to the advert on p11.

There was a great deal of discussion on the ditch that runs at the back of the houses in Station Road. It was explained that the developers working on 'Crossways' had installed a culvert into the ditch which had been approved by Glenn Shaw, Watercourse Regulator Engineer at Essex County Council. Glenn Shaw is also looking at the complete workings of the ditch and will be writing to all the residents, with riparian responsibilities, to arrange a meeting.

The Parish Council is in the incredibly early stages of a project for a new village community hall. The hall is to be funded from Section 106 contributions from the three large developments in the village, one of which, Bovis Homes in Hall Road, has been delayed, and Uttlesford District Council is still in the negotiating stage of their Section 106 agreement. The Parish Council is still unsure what the final amount will be.

Uttlesford District Council held its first meeting on the new Local Plan. The Terms of Reference and time scale were approved. The Local Plan will run from 2020-2040. This is not good news for Elsenham village as all the houses built before 2020 will not be taken into consideration.

The council received some wonderful photos for the competition 'Elsenham in Lock Down' It was extremely hard to pick a winner, eventually Paul Jarvis's photo of a deserted motorway was chosen with two runners up both submitted by Joanne Turner.

The idea of the Parish Council setting up a charity with the Parish Council acting as a trustee was discussed at length. The main reason for doing this is, that funding is often required, and many grants are only accessible to charities. However, to be accepted by the Charity Commission, the council would have to have clear objectives, with management committees and trustees for the ongoing maintenance of that charity. A Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) would be the best option.

The next Parish Council meeting will be 7 September 2020, 8pm via Zoom.



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DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2020

By Cllr Lees and Cllr LeCount

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☎ 816675



Although we are going through one of the most serious pandemics for 300 years, the council continues to operate and is fulfilling our statutory obligations. Zoom meetings have become the norm and the public may listen to those via the UDC website.

Our ambitious delivery plan has had to be re-assessed due to a lack of funds. It will be an ongoing process of continual re-evaluating as a greater understanding of our financial standing becomes clearer. Our Investment Board has recommended investments that should cover the increasing shortfall. Here lies an interesting conundrum; Would residents prefer us to a) raise council tax, to cover the financial need of the council, as government funding continues to be reduced, or b) invest public money? We would be happy to hear your thoughts on this and as a group we will be discussing this in the future.

This Government appears to be advising numerous planning changes. It appears that planning authorities will have less weight. We will continue to observe and will be responding to the new white paper. Our Local Plan Leadership Group has begun convening via zoom and we are relishing the challenge enthusiastically, whilst keeping a close eye for potential changes from the Government. We urge residents to respond as and when required.

We are preparing our response to the Stansted Airport appeal against the planning decision to refuse an increase in passengers.

Our London Road offices and all council buildings remain closed to the public. As and when we have more information, we will keep you up to date. We continue to promote the Public Health England messages on our social media channels and via our e-newsletters. The promoted materials include NHS Test and Trace, Stay Alert, face coverings etc. For those who are suffering financial hardship due to unforeseen circumstances such as the coronavirus outbreak, the council has an Exceptional Hardship Fund: www.uttlesford.gov.uk/ehf. We also have advice and links to resources for staying physically and mentally well on our website: www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/6688/Wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak

We are proud to represent this village and this pandemic has highlighted how a village has come together and supported each other. We have been a beacon for other areas and we bask in the reflected glory of the kindness, compassion, empathy, generosity both monetary and of yourselves. Stay Safe.

Though we are not having regular surgeries, we are more than happy to be contacted at any time. Our gardens are open, whilst the good weather holds.

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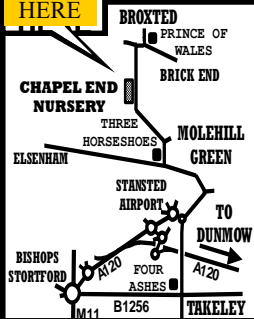
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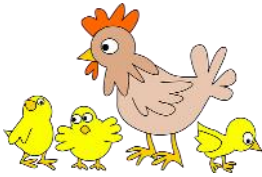
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On entry to the farm and once you have paid, you will be given some animal food and you can then visit and feed our lovely animals and see how much they have grown. You can also visit the small animals enclosure, have fun on the play equipment, have a picnic (you will need to bring your own), play in our new den building area and have a splash in the stream, visit our old friends, the horses and explore our brand new Woodland Walk that is simply duckitastic – there is an awful lot to do, so make sure you are not late.

You will see that our lambs and Gertrude, the kid goat, have really grown and as I type this, we are eagerly waiting the imminent arrival of piglets!!! We have a variety of chickens as well as ducks, geese, guinea fowl, quails and bantams.

As you can imagine, the past few months have been really tough for us, to say the least, so if you would like to help us, you can do this in a couple of ways. We have an **Amazon Wish List**. Nothing is terribly expensive, but everything is very much needed. If you would like to buy something, please follow the link https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1B5UNRLQREZDL?ref=cm_sw_sm_r_wl_mw_jrTk174ecxfGg

(If that doesn't work, to find the wish list go to Find a Wish List (under Accounts & Lists in the menu bar) and search for Rachel Berry.

We also have a **Crowd Funding page** for donations to this appeal. You can find it at www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/alison-thomson-5 Anything you can give is MASSIVELY appreciated.

Keep an eye on our website for news – www.daisymaysfarm.org.

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DEVELOPMENT DEVELOPMENTS

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



A virtual appeal was heard against refusal by Uttlesford District Council's (UDC) Planning Committee of the application to build 'up to' 40 homes in the field at the end of Rush Lane. The online proceedings were enlivened, as so often these days, with 'Can you hear me?', 'You're muted', and also by an unscheduled interruption by the Inspector's dog, which soon decided to seek more stimulating outlets elsewhere for his exuberance.

UDC defended the decision through an independent planning specialist. The developers surprised no-one by attending mob-handed - barrister, spokesman for the applicants, two or three consultants, and a representative of the appellants lurking silently in the background.

The main grounds for the appeal were as given in the refusal notice - impact on the countryside and on Stansted Airport Countryside Protection Zone. The Parish Council's earnest representative maintained that the attractions of the footpath across this open space are particularly valuable because several other local footpaths have been subsumed recently into housing developments. The delights of the public right of way forming the extension to Rush Lane along a sunken lane between overhanging trees were also described in picturesque terms. The Inspector was referred to several other objections in the written representations. His decision is awaited.

Uttlesford District Council has made a start in producing a new Local Plan. A team of consultants has been engaged. There is much in their report on these lines:

A desk top review of the Local Planning Authority's (LPA) vision and service objectives (as value propositions) in the context of the LPA's statutory duties and responsibilities and contributions to the council's corporate vision and objectives notably in respect of housing, economy, health, heritage, bio-diversity and the environment. The latter to be informed by the draft Corporate Plan vision, strategic themes, and high-level action points, the new Local Plan vision and strategic objectives and interviews.

It seems that there are people who reckon they understand this stuff - or, at least, no-one said they didn't at the meeting when it was considered.

UDC must have a highly developed sense of irony. There is a commitment to openness and transparency, although the only information available is hidden away in the agenda of a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee on 6 July. The project was initiated on 8 June; a month later it was already behind schedule, even before a proper schedule was produced. The chance of meeting the Government deadline for local plans of the end of 2023 is as remote as Alpha Centauri, and the rules as to how a plan is produced might well have changed before UDC is ready.

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ELSENHAM





Elstenham Good Neighbours Network

Taking a moment to reflect

When the pandemic started, I was acting leader of Uttlesford District Council. After numerous web meetings with the Government, it transpired at that time that local councils should not be addressing community issues. I decided we needed to act. I put out a call out for volunteers and with the help of the efficient Margaret Shaw we allocated those wonderful volunteers within the village and named it Elstenham Good Neighbour Network, EGNN.

Although we all felt unsettled, unsure of the future, over 100 folk initially put their names forward to be on that list and notes were delivered all over the village, which generated more responses. Two weeks later, the Government decided that Uttlesford should address community issues and the Community Hub was formed. By this time we were established and I am delighted to say few residents have contacted the hub, and those that did were redirected to us.

It would take the whole magazine to relate all the amazing responses. There was such an impressive display of kindness, compassion, empathy and generosity both of time and money. Donations of food, flower seeds, plants and candles have been left on my doorstep. Anonymous cash donations were posted through my door (how joyful it has been to help those in need). The response for the call out for teenage sanitary protection was overwhelming and brought out a probably never-used-before quote "Front door is blocked with ladies' things, boxes of them." The response to foodbank requests showed the kindness of villagers, with some delivering much needed food parcels on behalf of the foodbank.

I would like to share a few examples of what the EGNN has achieved:

- Recently widowed men have been befriended and supported.
- Elderly street inhabitants have become the "darling" of their street.
- Shopping was delivered to all those that requested. One lady was sent home from hospital to an empty fridge, shopping arrived that afternoon.
- Prescriptions have been delivered.
- Dogs have been walked. One dog has his own walking group of friends.
- New friends made over garden fences (even when they cannot be seen).
- Phone buddies have been contacting isolated villagers.
- Meals have been provided to those in need.
- Sharing things in short supply.

Friendships have been formed, a sense of belonging has grown. It is an honour to live here, and when we get the go ahead, we must have a village party on the recreation ground. This has been a success because of YOU, and YOU alone. I am so delighted to be a small part of this great achievement, long may the neighbourliness continue. So please pat yourselves on the back and smile at your neighbours when you see them. Stay safe.

Petrina Lees, District Councillor

September 2020

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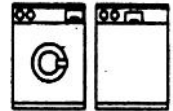
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Don't let your gran get scammed

Criminals often target older people to scam them out of their money. What can you do to protect gran and grandad from getting scammed?

Signs they might be responding to scams:

- Receiving lots of post and sending lots of post to companies abroad
- Going through large amounts of stamps and cheque books
- Receiving lots of phone calls from strangers or companies
- Receiving large amounts of cheap tat and scam mail
- Making frequent visits to the Post Office or bank
- Unpaid bills

What can you do?

- If you are worried that they might be susceptible to telephone scams investigate installing a call blocker
- Sort their mail with them to help recognise a scam
- Get their permission to redirect their mail
- The most important thing you can do is spend time with them. Many older people respond to scams as a result of loneliness or social isolation.

COLD CALLINGDON'T BUY IT

- ⇒ Stay safe and say NO to cold calling.
- ⇒ Ask cold callers to leave; not leaving when asked is a criminal offence.
- ⇒ It is possible that the cold caller may be checking to see if the house is empty so get a small notice put on your door that says NO COLD CALLERS. Also put No Cold Callers notice on your older relatives' doors to help them.

To report a suspicious cold calling doorstep trader or to find out more about your rights, please contact the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on ☎ 03454 040506. If you would like to receive the Neighbourhood Watch Police reports on crimes in our area plus the Police social media updates please send your email address to ✉ franceslambertnhw@btinternet.com and I will add you to the mailing list. Remember if you see something urgent that Police should know about dial 999, for anything else dial 101.

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ST MARY'S CHURCH ELSENHAM

Vicar: Gary Townsend

The Vicarage, Carters Lane, Henham ☎ 850281

Last month it was a real privilege to stand with many people in Elsenham to pay respects to Dusty Clark, the lollipop man. The funeral cortege passed along Elsenham High Street on Friday 7 August at about 12.40 stopping at the zebra crossing. The procession was stopped, of course, using Dusty's 'lollipop' and everyone, adults and children alike, observed a minute's silence.

I've always loved the fact that all the cars, lorries, buses, motor bikes and cyclists have to stop when that 'lollipop' is taken out into the road. I know some road users get frustrated and even on the occasions when I've been one of them, I still think it's right that all those adults, some in big powerful vehicles, have to stop and wait for the little children. The most vulnerable are given the priority and given special protection to get across safely. Dusty made sure of that and how grateful we all are that he did.

I think it's good to stop and reflect on the fact that we are all vulnerable; even the biggest, toughest and healthiest are vulnerable. This pandemic has reminded us of that. I think one of the reasons Jesus said we must all become like little children if we are to enter God's Kingdom is that we need to see how vulnerable and dependent we all are. All the self-

confidence, self-reliance and personal striving to alleviate our dissatisfaction needs to be surrendered before Jesus who became poor and weak for us, emptying Himself of all His power even to the extent of giving up His life for us on the cross.

I wonder what things are going on in your life at the moment that you could learn to see as God's way of saying "Stop; it's time to reflect on your need of me."

Rev Gary Townsend

Other events this month:

**Saffron Walden Bible Focus,
Sat 12 Sept**

**3.00pm, will be online this year
Speaker: Rev. Tony Mason**

Full details will be on the website
www.waldenbiblefocus.com
with a link to YouTube.

**For information on all events, please
contact the administrator at
office@heuchurch.co.uk**



What do Christians believe? Who is Jesus Christ? Did he really exist? Is he really God? If he did exist and he is God, what did he say while he was here on earth? Does he really tell us what the point of life is?

We have only one life – what is it all about?

During these uncertain times, now seems a great time to investigate who Jesus was and make your own mind up! **Come and join our relaxed and informal zoom course.**

- You don't need to know anything about the Bible.
- You won't be asked to read aloud, pray or sing.
- You can ask any question you want.

The sessions last about one hour and include a video to watch and the opportunity to find out who Jesus is and why he came.

HOW TO JOIN VIA ZOOM: Sessions can be tailored around your day; we can run meetings in the morning, afternoon or evening to fit around homeschooling, work and family life.

If you would like to join a group please **contact** office@heuchurch.co.uk stating which day and time slot (morning, afternoon, evening) suits you and we will contact you about joining.

WANT MORE INFO? To find out more about the course see www.christianityexplored.org



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CHURCH EVENTS IN OUR VILLAGES SEPTEMBER 2020

We are now meeting at St Peter's Ugley only, each Sunday at 10am

...for either said Morning Prayer or Holy Communion.

Due to the need for social distancing, we need to keep tabs on numbers, so please contact us if you plan to attend. You will be very welcome!

We are still meeting 'virtually' too! Join us for any or all of our Sunday gatherings each week:

HEU Combined Churches Service via recorded video stream

Available via the website:
www.heuchurch.co.uk

Or search 'Henham, Elsenham and Ugley' on YouTube

Elsenham 'Zoom Services' at 8:45 and 10:15am

We use the **same link** at the respective times each week.

Contact Charles Willbe
(c@willbe.me.uk) for the link

HEU Coffee & Catch-up: 11:40am - 12:30pm

A chance to chat and catch up and have fellowship with the church family via Zoom: **same link** each week.

Meeting ID: 771 5918 0523
Password: heuZOOM

Church buildings are open for personal prayer:

St Mary's Elsenham
Open at all times

St Mary's Henham
8am – 8pm every day

Other regular events:

St Peter's Ugley Junior Church

It is expected that parents will be sent out material for each week's session, to be done at home, as last term, or possibly meeting via Zoom (TBC). Contact the office for more information.

Elsenham Sunday Club/Explorers

(Y1-Y6) We are hoping to continue to run the magazine programme each week (TBC). This includes a story, teaching sheet, family prayers, quizzes and crafts. Contact the office to receive the magazine.

Henham Sunday Club (age 5 - Y3)

Looking at "What is God like?" from the stories of Elijah and Elisha in 1 & 2 Kings. We will send an audio file, a picture story and activities to parents by email Contact the office to be added to this email list.

Henham Explorers (Y4-Y6)

Suspended until at least October. Contact the office to take part in the Elsenham programme and receive the magazine.

Christian Play (Y1- Y2)

We are hoping to continue to run the magazine programme each week (TBC). This includes a story, teaching sheet, family prayers, quizzes and crafts. Contact the office to receive the magazine.

Henham Little Fishes pre-school group **Thursdays, 10.15am from 10th September**

We aim to meet again via Zoom unless restrictions change to enable us to meet physically.

Elsenham Little Fishes pre-school group **Fridays, 10am from 11th September**

Hoping to meet in person (socially distancing), depending on restrictions by then. Venue TBC. Otherwise, we will continue meeting by Zoom.

Pathfinders (Y7-9) – Sundays, 6pm

From 6th September - meeting via Zoom initially. This may well become a physical meeting, but we need to be clear on the rules before doing that. We'd love to have new members join us!

Crammin' (Y10-Y13) Sunday evenings, **7pm from 6th September**

Zoom sessions for an hour including chat; games; and a short bible discussion. That's until such time as we have a solution for meeting physically again.



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ELSENHAM VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

By Mike Rea, Secretary ☎ 813634 ✉ evhs12@hotmail.co.uk

🌐 www.elsenham-history.co.uk



Saturday 3 October 2020 will mark 100 years since the Village War Memorial was dedicated “In memory of the men of Elsenham who died for their Country during the Great War, 1914 – 1918”. The inscription concluded “May They Rest In Peace”. If all goes to plan, a service of re-dedication will take place at the Memorial Gardens on 3 October led by our vicar, Gary Townsend.

At the turn of the 19th century the small piece of land at the corner of the High Street and Station Road that we know as the Memorial Gardens, was a coal yard. It was rented from Sir Walter Gilbey by Elija Smith. The first Sir Walter Gilbey died in November 1914 but the second Baronet, also Sir Walter Gilbey gave this parcel of land to the village for the memorial. The Herts & Essex Observer for October 9 1920 tells us “the cross stands on a hexagonal plinth and two bases and is 14ft high over all, the whole being executed in Clipston Stone. On the three forward faces of the plinth are the names of the fallen and below on the upper base appears the inscription mentioned above. A photograph of the original cross appears on the front cover of our publication “For The Duration – Elsenham at War”.

For the record, Elijah Smith went on to buy a substantial parcel of land at the sale of the Gilbey Estate and on that stands the properties in Park Road that were built north of the gates.

There had been a few concerns about the integrity of the cross, some cracks having been noted early on in its life. By the mid to late 1950s however, there was considerable concern about the safety of the cross and it was finally taken down around 1958 - 59 and subsequently lost. Later still, the village magazine in 1984 noted that “for some time now the poor state of this little corner of the village has been of great concern. The Parish Council has decided to renovate the garden and restore a suitable memorial”. A new brick base was built to support the original plinths on which was placed a stone cross somewhat smaller than the original. Just a few years ago the magazine noted that the names of the fallen were becoming illegible so in 2015 a set of slate plaques were commissioned by the Parish Council to fit to the memorial bearing a complete list of names of all those who had fallen in the service of their country to date. These were dedicated at that year’s Remembrance Service.

My thanks go to Gordon Fulton, Chris Bush, Gordon Barker and the Village Magazine team for the information in the above notes.

There will be no September meeting so the next one will be in November on Wednesday 11 November. Ken MacDonald from the Hundred Parishes is booked to speak about the Society that celebrates the attractive, gently-undulating area, around 450 square miles of northwest Essex, northeast Hertfordshire and southern Cambridgeshire.

We look forward to welcoming you to our next meeting whenever it may be so as always, keep well and stay safe until we meet again.

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We continue to add circular walk routes to the Society's website so I would like to repeat last month's encouragement for people to go and try them. There is no need to travel far. The walks range in distance from one mile to ten miles. The routes have been chosen for the quality of scenery or heritage, or both, and the route descriptions seek to add to your knowledge of the places you pass.

Each route description can easily be downloaded from the Other Walks section of www.hundredparishes.org.uk and then printed. We try to make the route description as easy as possible to follow and we have a small team of volunteers who check them. We welcome feedback and comment.

Shorter walks tend to focus on a single interesting town or village, for example Bartlow, Clavering, Great Dunmow, Hatfield Broad Oak, Hildersham, Much Hadham, Sawbridgeworth, Stebbing or Thaxted.

Some routes combine town and countryside, for example from Buntingford, Saffron Walden or Standon. Others are mainly countryside routes, such as those starting from Broxted, Henham, Little Hadham, Matching or Wareside.



Great Dunmow

Some routes range over two or more parishes, for example seven miles between Pleshey and Great Waltham or eight miles between Albury, Braughing and Furneux Pelham. Two different routes run between Finchingfield and Great Bardfield. An 8-miler starting from Chrishall passes through four parishes and offers extensive views from upland paths in the Essex/Cambridgeshire borders.

These are just some examples to give you a flavour and to whet your appetite. If your favourite place isn't mentioned yet we are regularly adding new walks. Even if you think you know your local area, I assure you that, not far away, there is more to be found and enjoyed.

Ken McDonald, Secretary.

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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NATURAL OUTLOOK ON ADAPTATIONS FOR AUTUMN

By Heather Salvidge 📧 814153



By the time September arrives it's starting to get dark by 8.30pm and staying darker in the mornings. This means that many of the active creatures have to adapt. Some have to eat more often throughout the daylight hours and others, such as hedgehogs have longer dark hours to feed in order to build up body fat to see them through hibernation, especially if they are a hoglet born as one of the September litter. Moles build up a store of spare insect larvae and worms that fall into their tunnel system to use in winter. Bats emerge earlier than in summer to feed and build up strength for hibernation.

Some birds spend more time in gardens that have food and, more importantly, water, and others start thinking about migrating to warmer climes unless like the swifts, they have already gone. They don't all go at once from everywhere. Adults usually leave first but it depends on the weather and an adequate food supply that year. For instance, we might lose the house martins that have bred around our shops early in the month but not those living elsewhere eg at Hatfield Forest or at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust reserve at Welney, in Norfolk. One year when I visited there on 30 September they were still there, whereas the previous year earlier in the month it had been so dry that the lake was almost non-existent and there were none – plenty of wildfowl though. Elsenham's swallows have left our 'Town Centre' and have moved to the 'southern suburbs' to depart when it suits them.

Out of the breeding season some of the finches, green, gold and chaffinches form large, sometimes mixed, flocks out in the fields when harvest has finished. The large numbers, often swollen by migrants from the continent, give them protection and they either find spilt seeds in any remaining stubble or in specially sown margins of fields such as the one continuing from the top of the path at Old Mead Lane. Most juveniles will be partially, at least, into their adult plumage with goldfinches getting their red faces. Crows, jackdaws and rooks forage on ploughed fields looking for insects and worms which are also fodder for buzzards.



Goldfinch fodder

Blackbird numbers expand because of continental migrants and, depending on the winter weather there, varying numbers of fieldfares, redwings and the 'Art Deco' waxwings arrive. The wildfowl populations of swan species and several different geese also come here for our relatively warmer climate, and start to make landfall by the end of the month.

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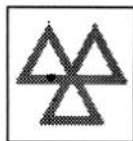
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Do you know what our Parish Council does?

We have two vacancies on the Parish Council, which is responsible for a lot of what goes on in Elsenham. As our village grows we need your help. The initial commitment is just one meeting per month. Also, you may be interested in a Sub Committee role. See the advert on p11.

Below are some of the responsibilities of the Parish Council:

- Provision of:
 - village halls or community centres
 - allotments
 - recreation grounds, parks, children's play areas and playing fields
 - cemeteries and graves
 - closed churchyards
 - litter bins and public seats
- Provide cycle and motorcycle parking
- Creation, acquisition and maintenance of rights of way
- Maintenance of war memorials
- Provide the following, subject to consent of the County Council:
 - Lighting of roads, public places and bus shelters
 - Off-street car parks
 - Certain traffic signs and other public notices
 - Maintenance and protection of roadside verges
 - Consulting and commenting on all planning applications
 - Intention to provide a burial ground in the parish
 - Proposals to carry out sewerage works
 - Footpath and bridleway (more generally, 'rights of way') surveys



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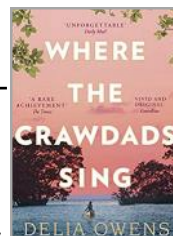
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elsenhamnews@hotmail.co.uk

WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING

By Delia Owens

Reviewed by Marion Giles



'For years, rumours of the 'Marsh Girl' have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life - until the unthinkable happens. . . .' So says the blurb on the back of the book.

Reviews:

- 'Painfully beautiful' **New York Times**
- 'It will reach a huge audience though the writer's old-fashioned talents for compelling character, plotting and landscape description' **The Guardian**
- 'I can't even express how much I love this book!' **Reese Witherspoon**

This was the choice of the book group this month. We had a good discussion of the book, which was generally well-liked and LOVED (in capital letters) by three of the group members.

Our discussion focussed on: the setting, the main character and the wildlife of the marsh. Descriptions of the setting and the wildlife are beautifully written with intricate detail so that you are treated to a real portrait of the wildness of the location and of the wildlife that inhabit such a place. Delia Owens portrays this marsh life in poetic detail and these aspects of the book are lovely.

There are several main characters in the book and a few are a little bit stereotypical: the bully of a father; the brother who left and feels guilty; the town golden boy who is a show-off and another bully; the prejudice of the townspeople; the inefficient and clichéd police officers. On the other hand there are some lovely characters; the lawyer with integrity, Jumpin and Mabel, who befriend and help Kya and lastly, Tate, who is in love with Kya and helps her to grow and find her own voice. Some of us found the actions of the mother a little difficult to understand.

Without plot spoilers, it is difficult to talk about the rest of our discussion. In essence there is a major plot development, the details of which some of us found a bit unnecessary. The plotting around this event seemed a bit sloppy and the story couldn't decide if it was a whodunnit or not. The other major discussion was about the ending, which several of us found a little disappointing especially compared to the rest of the book, which has much to like about it.

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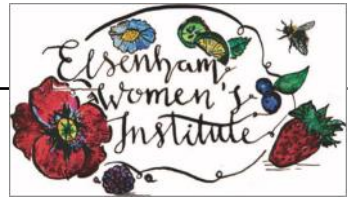
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ELSENHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

By Moyra Jackson ☎ 647351



Sitting in glorious sunshine today and I am not even making any effort to go indoors. Enjoying the lovely sound of birdsong, bees buzzing and the not so gentle roar of vehicles on Stansted Road!

Our WI is still not meeting in person at the moment. We are producing a monthly Newsletter for all our members, compiled by Gill Hathaway, to keep us informed of all aspects of Elsenham WI. Our Committee is working hard in the background and speaking to all of our members regularly. Our Natter nights are now every Tuesday by way of Zoom and our programme for 2020 has been adapted to virtual meetings for the remainder of this year. Many of us are taking the opportunity to join talks from Denman, the WI College based in Oxfordshire – cookery, crafting and some excellent history talks. Most of the talks cost £5 and last an hour so they are really good value. These are available to non-members too – please just search 'Denman At Home'.

Our last meeting was with the effervescent Paul Martin, or Paulus as he is now known in his latest incarnation. Paulus entertained us with songs accompanied on his ukulele and chat ranging from his rose garden to the effect COVID has had on the arts, especially small theatres. We had a full house as Elsenham WI hosted 19 other WIs from all across Essex including the fabulous Jan Curtis, our Federation Chair. Many stayed online after our speaker finished and it was lovely to meet and chat to so many new friends.

And that takes me nicely on to what we have planned for our next few meetings. Simon Gregor is a lecturer from Denman College and by the wonders of Zoom is coming to Elsenham on Thursday 17 September. He is a registered tour guide in London and in many locations across France and Germany. Simon is a very talented speaker and the photographs he uses during his talks are excellent and his chosen talk for us is 'London – An Illustrated History'. Visitors are welcome, as are 'Other Halves' etc. – please contact either Gill or myself for joining instructions. If you have never tried Zoom before we have help on hand should you want to try before the meeting – after that, the world is your oyster!

If you are not a member and would like to come along please contact me for further details – we are always happy to welcome visitors. Our monthly meetings start at 8pm and are on the third Thursday of every month. Natter Night at 7.30pm every Tuesday evening is also open to all. Love and best wishes from all at Elsenham WI.

Stay safe.

GARDEN HINT *By Sue Johnson*

Clean birdbaths out with a mild detergent to help prevent the spread of disease.



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- Energy saving around the home
- Switching suppliers – working out which energy tariff is the best one for you
- Helping you to join an oil club
- Access to grants for energy saving improvements – we can help you find the best scheme and help you apply
- Access to emergency fuel payments

For more information speak to Kaleigh, our specialist energy adviser, on ☎ 01799 618858 or email ✉ warmhomes@uttlesfordcab.cabnet.org.uk

Hatfield Forest

Hatfield Forest is open again. Facilities include open wood pasture grassland and shady woodland with grassy paths, internal car parks, toilets with baby changing room, outdoor picnic seating. Dogs are welcome but must be kept under close control at all times, on leads near livestock and wherever signs say to do so. You must book your car parking space in advance. Members can book for free, non-members need to pay. Tickets are released every Friday so you must book your parking space by 3pm the day before your visit. Fees range up to £8. To book: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfield-forest/whats-on

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ELSENHAM BOWLS AND SOCIAL CLUB

By Sue Waite ☎ 07956 899326 ✉ suewaite2003@yahoo.co.uk



Hello everyone, I hope you have been enjoying the lovely sunshine.

As you may know the Bowls Club was able to open its doors again at the end of July to welcome members back to the bar for a refreshing drink. The bowls club is open on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7pm with Friday being our more popular evening with several members booking tables to sit inside or outside. We have table service which means you can sit back, relax and enjoy the evening.

We also started our Friday, Wait and See pairs league which is proving to be very successful, with 12 teams of bowlers competing together on Friday at 11am and 2pm. The bar is open and our bowlers would certainly appreciate an audience so why don't you pop along and show your support. If you are not a member of the bowls or social side of the club then you can join on the day – we would be very happy to see you.

Our singles competition also started in August where we have 20 members playing against each other on a Monday or Wednesday at 4pm and 6pm hoping to win the coveted trophy. These competitions are only a bit of fun but they give members a chance to play during these strange times of social distancing and hand sanitising.

We are hoping that by the time you read this we will have a card system installed in the bowls club which will make it easier for you to pay for your drinks – fingers crossed.

If you would like to book a table on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday then please telephone ☎ 07956 899326. Two households are allowed to share an indoor table but outside more people can sit together but apart paying attention to social distancing. Our servers wear face shields and tables and chairs are cleaned between customers. We also operate a one way system so you enter the club via the side gate. All the necessary guidelines are followed to keep everyone safe.

Hope to see you there, best wishes and stay safe.



If you are a regular blood donor you may have had appointments to donate cancelled during the crisis. Blood and platelet stocks are good but please keep donating.

You can check for available appointments on my.blood.co.uk where there is also guidance about how the service is keeping donors and staff safe. If you have had COVID-19 you could donate blood plasma as part of an NHS clinical trial to help with the national effort against the virus, go to my.blood.co.uk or search for 'convalescent plasma donor'.

If you missed the online editions of Elsenham News from April - August 2020, and would like a copy. Please email ✉ elsenhamnews@hotmail.co.uk. These are also available on the ECA website 📄 elsenhamcommunityassociation.org.uk

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ELSENHAM TENNIS CLUB

By Petra Studholme ☎ 01279 814667



Elsenham Tennis Club is open for play!

Our reduced membership fees (pro rata to start in June until end of March) are as follows:

- Adult - £55
- Couple - £95
- Family - £105
- Senior - £30
- Student - £30
- Junior - £12.50

Further benefits (once normal play is allowed to resume): regular club nights, Sunday afternoon leisure play, ladies' Friday morning play, weekly Wednesday evening coaching sessions and much more. We do have floodlights, operated by tokens, so you can play until late in the evenings, summer and winter. For more information go to www.elsenhamtennisclub.co.uk.

Court bookings for members – subject to change if advice from the government and LTA guidelines change

All bookings to be made online, no turn up and play, to ensure that we do not have too many players on one court at any time. We strictly adhere to LTA and government guidelines. Additional measures are in place to ensure all members' safety. All playing participants must be named in the booking system, guests of members are welcome.

Club night update – by the time this article appears, we will have resumed club nights, after our risk assessment and with limits of attendees in place. Members only and we have a pre-booking system in place.

Coaching update – Individual lessons with Steve are available, but be quick to make sure that he and the courts are available when you want to play – to find out more see our website (details above) or [✉ mail@elsenhamtennisclub.co.uk](mailto:mail@elsenhamtennisclub.co.uk). We are now starting some group lessons (small numbers of people on the courts as per guidelines).

Ladies' mornings: both the Wednesday and Friday meet ups have resumed, adhering to LTA advice with limited numbers of attendees, we have a pre-booking system in place.

Keep an eye on the ETC website and follow us on Facebook for the latest info.

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Funerals:

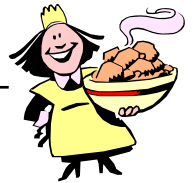
- Service of Thanksgiving and Burial at Henham Cemetery on 16 July 2020, Anthony Bizley Foster, aged 86 years, of Heathfield, Crow Street, Henham. [Please note the Vicar apologies for the inaccuracies in the August edition of the magazine with regard to the details relating to Mr Foster's funeral and is particularly sorry for any distress this caused to his family and friends].
- Service of Thanksgiving at Henham Church, followed by a burial at Henham Cemetery on 12 August 2020, Margaret Rose Wasley, aged 82 years, of Frere Court, Bishop's Stortford.
- Graveside service and burial at St Mary's Elsenham churchyard on 12 August 2020, June Teresa Bisset, aged 75 years, of Clare Road, Braintree.

Interment of Ashes:

- On 10 August 2020 at Ugley Churchyard, Stephen Irvine-Fynn.
- On 10 August 2020 at Ugley Churchyard, Nora Cowell.

COOKERY CORNER

By Sue Johnson ☎ 812704



This dense, creamy Italian speciality is rich and velvety. A very lovely way to round off any summer meal and my idea of heaven!

PANNA COTTA WITH BLUEBERRY SAUCE (Serves 6)

- Zest and juice of 1 orange
- 2 teaspoons powdered gelatine (or vegetarian option)
- 8oz (250g) mascarpone cheese
- ½ pint (300ml) double cream
- 2½oz (75g) caster sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Sauce:

- 8oz (250g) blueberries
- 1 tablespoon icing sugar

Put the orange juice in a small bowl and sprinkle the gelatine on top. Leave for 2-3 minutes until spongy. Then place the bowl over a pan of simmering water and stir the mixture until the gelatine has dissolved. Lightly oil six small ramekin dishes or metal pudding moulds. Put the mascarpone in a saucepan with the cream, orange zest, sugar and vanilla and bring just to the boil. Remove from the heat and add the hot gelatine mixture. Stir until thoroughly amalgamated. Pour into the six individual dishes and chill for at least two hours to set. Put the blueberries in a bowl and pierce all over with a fork to let the juices run a little. Add the icing sugar and remainder of the orange juice. Mix together and chill until ready to serve. To serve, loosen the edges of the moulds with a knife and then shake them out on to individual plates. Spoon the blueberry sauce all round.

CHEF'S SUGGESTIONS:

Make an alternative sauce using fresh apricots (delicious with honey instead of sugar) or pitted cherries (good with lime juice) for a change. Fresh strawberries, raspberries and red currants all go well too. For a healthier panna cotta, omit the double cream. Substitute 7oz (200g) virtually fat-free fromage frais but do not heat it with the mascarpone. Instead, add once the mascarpone mixture has cooled a little and before stirring in the gelatine.

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 handwritten articles that 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: elsenhamsnews@hotmail.co.uk

General Notes

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

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

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

The editors' decision is final.

Wanted/For Sale items: village residents may submit details of items wanted or for sale at no charge. These will be included in the next available 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 Sarah, see details below.

Advertising

The costs are as follows:

	Single Insertion	Annual Cost (11 issues)
Half Page	£20	£190
Quarter Page	£10	£100
Inside Page	£50	n/a
Back Page	£75	n/a

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

To place an advertisement:

For any queries please contact us. Please send your advert as Word or Publisher via email to elsenhamsnews@hotmail.co.uk

Once your advert has been approved and you are happy with it, you will be sent an invoice, which should be paid by BACS.

Flyers

It costs £50 to insert an advertising flyer into the magazine. You must let us know by the deadline of the 12th. You must also provide the flyers.

Editorial Team

Sarah Alder	817660
Marion Giles-Donovan	812763
Heather Baxter	812924

ECA Website

www.ElsenhamCommunityAssociation.org.uk

If you respond to one of the adverts in the magazine, please tell the advertiser that you found them in *Elsenham News*.



UPCOMING EVENTS TBC

Santa visits the village 5 December
Christmas Tree Festival 5-6 December

VILLAGE CONTACTS

Airport Roadside Parking		0800 731 2385
Beavers	Jackie Weston	816282
Bowls Club	Jean Platt	816151
Brownies	Jennifer Jarvis	814434
Church Office (Old Frank's, High St, Elsenham)	Anna Hicks	814285
County Councillor (Stansted)	Ray Gooding	813103
Cricket Club	David Brown	831011
The Crown pub	info@thecrown.info	814444
Cub Scouts	Linda Gleeson	850504
Cycling Club (Victoria CC)	Doug Yareham	07884 040892
Elsenham Community Association (ECA)	www.ElsenhamCommunityAssociation.org.uk	
ECA (Chairman)	Allan Hathaway	813385
ECA (Secretary)	Moyra Jackson	647351
Elsenham Surgery	www.elsenhamsurgery.nhs.uk	814730
Elsenham C of E Primary School	Linda Reid, 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)	Gemma Mills	07745 036066
Guides elsenhamguides@gmail.com	Gemma Lewis	07792 572423
Henham & District Garden Society	Moyra Jackson	647351
History Society	Mike Rea evhs12@hotmail.co.uk	813634
Member of Parliament	Kemi Badenoch	0207 219 1943
Memorial Hall Bookings	Cheryl Rae	817834
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator	Frances Lambert	07771 728332
Parish Clerk - Louise Johnson	franceslambertnhw@btinternet.com	
Elsenham Parish Council Website	louise.epc@gmail.com	07456 791727
Police	https://elsenham-pc.gov.uk/	
Post Office		101
Rainbows		812175
St Mary's Fabric Fund	Petrina Lees	816675
Tennis Club	Elizabeth Barker	813543
Tots & Toddlers	Petra Studholme	814667
Uttlesford District Councillors	Trudi Marsh	899864
(for Elsenham & Henham)	Petrina Lees	816675
Village Hall Bookings	Garry LeCount	07836 346717
Village Hall email address	Annie Gleeson	07809 490731
Women's Institute	elsenhamvillagehall@gmail.com	
WI website	Gill Hathaway	813385
Youth Football Club (Chairman)	www.elsenhamwi.co.uk	
	Paul Jarvis	814434

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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