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Henham Dragon February 2023

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| | | |
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Editorial

This month we have some good news! As a volunteer team we were honoured to be presented with an Uttlesford Community award for village services, more about that on page 5/6. We would welcome more volunteers to our team, if you would like to find out more, please contact any one of us.

Secondly, The Dragon has for many years been entirely funded by the sale of advertising within the Magazine. Unfortunately, this aim is increasingly difficult to maintain in the current financial situation. There is pressure on both the Magazine with rising print costs and on our many small business advertisers. The Dragon Committee is therefore extremely grateful to the Parish Council for their generous offer of a grant to ease the forthcoming financial year.

The state of our roads is an ongoing concern. Sue Leech has been braving the weather in order to identify potholes and report them. The dissolution of the Highway rangers team makes it even more important for the public to report concerns. Please see letter to the Editor on page 3.

Our lovely village continues to thrive, and the Dragon illustrates this with our one off and regular articles written by local people. The Dragon team welcomes village or topical articles, details of how to submit are on page 32. We rely on you to keep the Dragon up to date, interesting and relevant!

There was no District council meeting in January 2023.

Miranda Roberts

Reporting noisy aircraft

You can leave a message on the Stansted Noise Line, Freephone 0800243788
Or by Email on stanstednoiseline@stanstedairport.com

Highways -Reporting potholes and other dangers.

Contact sue@heatwaves.co.uk or on 07881 942 836

Or Cllr Gooding at Cllr.Ray.Gooding@essex.gov.uk (Essex County Council)

or Cllr Scott at Cllr.Lee.Scott@essex.gov.uk (Essex Highway)

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I would like to update the road/pothole/drain situation for the local area.

I met with Ray Gooding (Essex County Councillor) to try to ascertain the current position. He said that we needed 36 potholes of a suitable size to get them logged. During December I provided Cllr. Gooding with evidence of a further 34 potholes, providing 94 photographs showing their position in What3Words and the state of the road/pothole/drain in Pledgdon Green, Thaxted Road, Henham High Street, Chickney Road, Mill Road and Hollow Road in Widdington, which leads to the pit, plus two areas in Elsenham by the station.

At the Elsenham Parish Council meeting on Monday 9th January, Ray Gooding was asked by David Morson what the position is, as he was given to understand that the funding for the roads in the care of Essex Highways, and thereby Essex County Council, has had its funding reduced by 55% from an essential estimated sum of £77.7 million to just £36.7 million.

This is correct. This is, in part, due to the increased need for social services funding.

What services have been cut? Crucially, cuts include the Highway Rangers who do vital work identifying potholes, necessary roadworks, kerbs, overhanging vegetation and blocked drains.

Consequently, if they are not doing this – who is? Well, the public.

As many of you know, I have been logging potholes and damaged drains for the last few months. I am still monitoring more as these grow in this weather.

I am given to understand that if these are logged with Ray Gooding, then he is obliged to follow up on the information. So, it is up to us to look after our village and surrounding areas.

Contact me at sue@heatwaves.co.uk or on 07881 942 836

Alternatively contact;

Cllr Ray Gooding at Cllr.Ray.Gooding@essex.gov.uk (Essex County Council)
or Cllr Lee Scott at Cllr.Lee.Scott@essex.gov.uk (Essex Highways)

I will give a further update in March if there is anything to add.

Sue Leech

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Dear Editor.

Dog walkers. This subject, the problem, has been raised before but annoyingly dog mess still prevails – and affects everyone. Now, I don't see many dogs walking around on their own and people without dogs are not in question so it is people with dogs who are the nuisance, or at least some of them, allowing their pets to foul the footpaths and verges – and you culprit owners know who you are. Kindly collect your dogs' mess and don't leave the faeces to fester: don't ignore it – that is just lazy and irresponsible.

Living on The Row, I am very aware of dog droppings on this narrow walkway which are especially evident in the mornings – do you dog owners think you cannot be seen, particularly at night, and therefore don't bother to clear up after your dog or be considerate villagers? Doggie bags are available *free* to villagers from the shop and used bags can easily be deposited into the dog waste bins (coloured red) located around the village (no, don't hang the bags on the nearest bush) - it is not a difficult exercise. Dog owners – be thoughtful at any time of the day or night – you may not care but the rest of us do.

Brian Tucker

---oOo---

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or contact Gerry Bigland 01279 850373



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to

Henham Dragon Editorial Team

*In recognition of outstanding work for
Service to the Local Community
within the District of Uttlesford*

Heather Rice

Chairman of the Council

5 January 2023



Community Achievements Awards

Presentation Evening 5th January

The Dragon team were thrilled to be nominated by Nick Baker on behalf of the Parish Council for an Uttlesford Community Award. Five members of the team attended the evening but were very much representing the rest of the committee.

It was a very well organised and awe-inspiring evening listening to the achievements of other nominees who had contributed so much to their particular area of the district from starting food banks to litter clearing and services to the young and old, often over a large number of years and on all on a voluntary basis.

The description given of our magazine highlighted the role of our distributors and the teamwork required to ensure all households receive their copies for which we thank you all.

We enjoyed a very generous buffet and thank Sue and Fiona from the District Council for their hospitality.

Ros Heywood



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Henham and Ugley School

A very Happy New Year to you all!

As we ended the autumn term, we were left with the fantastic results of the annual Cheerleading competition.

Key Stage 1: Finished 1st place. Both our Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 squads finished in first place! I was lucky enough to see both routines and how hard they worked to achieve this fantastic result. Well done to everyone who played a part!

With all schools struggling with the increasing financial costs and the impact of this on our already tight budgets, I am delighted to let you know that thanks to the generosity of our wonderful community, the PSA Christmas Bazaar raised an incredible £1800. This money means that we are able to provide resources in school that we wouldn't otherwise be able to fund. Thank you all so much for your continued support!

During our first week back to school, the whole school got to enjoy a pantomime in the school hall; Snow White. What a fabulous afternoon of fun it was!



We have so much to look forward to this term and I look forward to bringing you updates about this each month.

Until then, please do take care.

Kim Hall
Headteacher

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From the Church Reverend Louis Wilson writes....

Nearly 200 years ago, a new parish was carved out of the Scottish city of Dundee. The first minister of this brand new church – St Peter’s Dundee – was a man called Robert Murray M’Cheyne. He was just 23 years old.

He preached and taught the Bible, he prayed, he visited, he innovated – pioneering a weekly prayer meeting in the church and always encouraging his congregation to pray and look for revival. He supported or set up many social and missionary projects – but had a particular concern for the Jewish people of Palestine.

In 1839, he travelled there with a delegation to see what could be done to assist the Jewish people. While he was away, news reached him that in his absence a great revival was breaking out at St Peter’s.

Revival has been described as, ‘A special work of God and especially his Holy Spirit by which Christians are renewed, quickened and stirred to pray and to share their faith. The Bible is always central and its preaching leads to conviction of sin and conversion.’

An eyewitness to the Dundee revival wrote: “The forge became nothing to the blacksmith, nor the bench to the carpenter, nor the furrow to the ploughman.”

They left everything to crowd the churches and the prayer meetings. There were nightly sermons in every church, household meetings for prayer in every street, twos and threes in earnest conversation on every road, and single wrestlers with God in the field and glen.

After M’Cheyne’s return, the revival continued, but he himself had never enjoyed great physical health. Weakened and overworked, he contracted typhus fever and died suddenly aged just 29.

A crowd of 6,000 attended his funeral as he was buried in the graveyard at St Peter’s. He had a thoroughly biblical ministry and many of his writings are still in print. But his most enduring legacy is the M’Cheyne Daily Bible Reading Plan devised to enable the whole Bible to be read in a year.

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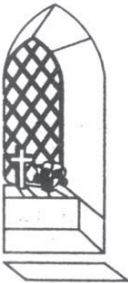
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He knew there were dangers to this such as formality and dry, careless reading. But he saw great benefits in cultivating the daily discipline of reading through the whole Bible in an orderly manner without passing over some parts.

The original plan takes the user through the whole Bible with the Psalms and four Gospels twice. This means four Bible chapters a day, seven days a week, 52 weeks of the year. I've done it before. One member of my family completed it in 2022, and I have decided that 2023 is the year for me to revisit it.

Like any disciplined activity, it takes a bit of effort but I remember being surprised what little burden I found it and how helpful it was (but ask me again in six months!). The plan and its various adaptations are easily available online (just search M'Cheyne Daily Bible Reading Plan) and you can start on any day of the year.

With best wishes,

Louis

From The Parish Registers

Nothing to report from the Parish Registers

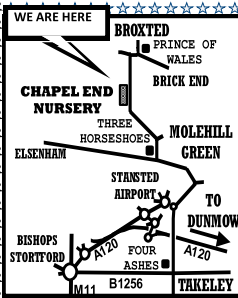
Church Contact Information

| | | |
|----------------|---|------------------|
| Vicar | 01279850480 Louis.wilson@heuchurch.co.uk | Rev.Louis Wilson |
| Church Office | 01279 814285 | Anna Hicks |
| Church e-mail | Office@heuchurch.co.uk | |
| Church website | www.heuchurch.co.uk | |

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Church Events in Our Villages in February 2023

Church Services

Sunday 5th February

10:15 All Together Family Service,
Elsenham Village Hall

18:00 Sunday@6, Henham Church

Sunday 12th February

08:45 BCP Prayer Book Communion,
Elsenham Church

10:00 Morning Service, Ugley Church

10:15 Communion Service,
Elsenham Village Hall

11:15 Morning Service,
Henham Church

18:00 Sunday@6, Henham Church

Sunday 19th February

10:30 Joint Benefice Service,
Elsenham Church

No Sunday@6 this week

Sunday 26th February

08:45 BCP Morning Prayer,
Elsenham Church

10:00 Prayer Book Communion,
Ugley Church

10:15 Morning Service,
Elsenham Village Hall

11:15 Communion Service,
Henham Church

18:00 Sunday@6, Henham Church

**Join us for our new monthly Family
Service for all ages,**

10:15am at Elsenham Village Hall on
the 1st Sunday of every month.



Other regular events

SUNDAYS:

St Peter's Junior Church

St Peter's, Ugley 10.00am

Sundays: 26th

Elsenham Sunday Club/Explorers

(Y1-Y6) Old Franks, Elsenham

10.15am Sundays: 26th

Henham Sunday Club/Explorers

(Reception-Y5) Church Hall,

Henham 11.00am Sundays: 26th

Pathfinders (Y6-Y9)

**St Mary's, Henham 6.00pm - leave
from service to meet in OSCA**

Sundays: 5th & 26th

Crammin' (Y10-Y13)

**St Mary's, Henham 6.00pm followed
by 7.00pm at The Church Hall,**

Henham Sundays: 5th & 26th

MID-WEEK AND SATURDAY:

Start the Week with Prayer

Church Hall, Henham 9.30am

Mondays: 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th

Seekers After School Bible Club

(Y3-Y4) Old Frank's 3.20pm

Mondays: 6th, 20th & 27th

Christian Play (Y1-Y2)

Rowan House, Elsenham 3.15pm

Tuesdays: 7th, 21st & 28th

Little Fishes Pre-School Group

Church Hall, Henham 10.15am

Thursdays: 2nd, 9th & 23rd

Little Fishes Pre-School Group

Elsenham Memorial Hall 10.00am

Fridays: 3rd, 10th & 24th

Church Lunch Club

Elsenham Memorial Hall 12.30pm

Fridays: (2nd & 4th Friday of the month):
10th & 24th

Afternoon Tea

OSCA, Henham 2.00pm

Saturday: 18th

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Village Shop News

The shop continues to prosper, thanks to the large number of volunteers who support this thriving community facility, which is now the only retailer in the village. Help is always needed however, and there are currently vacancies for the following slots: -

Fridays 11-1 on alternate weeks

Saturdays 11-1 for 1 week in 6

Please contact Linda Peake on 01279 850374 for further details and training.

We have been unable to supply bread in the first two weeks of January, due to a serious family illness, and we thank our customers for their patience and understanding.

The Post Office is thriving, and on its behalf, we remind you that the Royal Mail *swap out postage scheme* has been extended to 31st July 2023. This scheme applies just to definitive stamps, which will become invalid for postal use after that date. It includes not only 1st and 2nd class non bar-coded stamps, but any stamp with a face value. Commemorative issues are not affected. Claim forms are available direct from Royal Mail.

Aid For Romania

We would love to have any Christmas decorations or trees that you no longer need. These we will send out next autumn but would welcome them now as they have been recently taken down. We had a good response for these decorations last year so please keep them coming if you have any unwanted items. We are also short of children's bikes and always very short of children's clothes (summer ones please as the next lorry will go into their summer). Cuddly toys are a favourite as are smaller toys eg cars etc (but not if they need English to work them). Cushions are needed too so we can pack them into the smaller pieces of furniture – we don't like sending air!! If anyone knows of a school or community hall that are replacing their adult size stacking chairs, please let me have their contact details.

Please contact Richard Peake 850374 before delivering to our house 1 Hall Close, Henham during February.

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Our Annual Christmas Lunch was held on December 15th. Some eighty members braved the snow, ice and freezing conditions to enjoy the warmth and hospitality of Bury Lodge. What a joyous party it turned out to be, full of festive fun with seasonal music playing, an enjoyable meal, some wonderful raffle prizes, and convivial company. Our thanks go to Teresa and her team at Bury Lodge for their hospitality and to Gill and Bob Dean who so ably organised the whole event. It proved a fitting finale to a wonderful year for Stansted Mountfitchet u3a.



The General Meeting on 16th February is entitled “Medieval Maldon”. With busy quays, substantial housing, flourishing artisan guilds and even a royal mint in the early years, Maldon in the Middle Ages was a prosperous port at the mouth of the Blackwater. Local resident and amateur historian Dennis Eraut will increase our appreciation of an often-overlooked small town.

Last year our membership increased by 20% so we have been encouraged to introduce several new interest groups for 2023 including “Antiques and Collectibles”, “Geography”, a new “Walking” group and a “Singles Group”, a social group aimed specifically at people on their own.

The first Saturday Seminar of 2023 will be held on 25th February. Called “Old Russia to European State: a history of conflict between Ukraine”, it is timed to recognise the first anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and Russia. David Morson will be exploring the history of the relationship between Russia and Ukraine to give some insights into what lies behind this tragic conflict. The Seminar will be held at the Free Church Hall, Chapel Hill, Stansted, CM24 8AG. Members should book their tickets from Ticket Source, £7 each although a few may be for sale at the February General meeting for members without internet access.

Anne White 07874 388541

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News From The Gardens of Eastern Lodge

We have been working hard on pruning, tree planting and other winter jobs and are now looking forward to re-opening the Gardens for the snowdrop season. In 2022 it was wet in February, and we had to cancel two of the planned snowdrop days, so we have our fingers firmly crossed for decent weather and ground conditions and for the snowdrops to be at their best on time (despite the unseasonably mild start to 2023)!

On the Sunday Snowdrop Open Days, on 12 and 19 February, we will have our full offer. Visitors will enjoy the vistas of snowdrops in the Bosquet, in the front of the Gardens, the Glade and in the Walled Kitchen Garden. The Trust's volunteers will provide hot and cold drinks, bacon/cheese/hummus rolls, homemade soup, and homemade cakes. There will be a plant stall and snowdrops in the green for sale. Gates open at 11.00, last entry 3.00pm, gates close at 4.00pm.



On Thursday Snowdrop Days, on 16 and 23 February, the Gardens of neighbouring Warwick House are not open to visitors, but there is still lots of space for visitors and their well-behaved dogs on leads and lots of snowdrops of course! The Trust's volunteers will provide hot and cold drinks and homemade cakes; and snowdrops in the green will be on sale. Gates open at 11.00, last entry 2.00pm, gates close at 3.00pm.

For more information go to our website www.eastonlodge.co.uk. Tickets will be available in advance through Trybooking.com and any not sold in advance will be available on the Gate. Advance tickets will be refunded if the Trust has to cancel the Snowdrop Day.

Jill Goldsmith

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Elizabethan spoons, bronze age knives and clay pipes were just a few of Gordon Bailey, our November speaker's favourite things which he brought with him to illustrate his fascinating talk. His witty, entertaining and informative talk at an end, he invited us to go and have a closer look and even handle the treasures!

Our December meeting took the form of a festive tea during which we celebrated member Marion Pretty's 90th birthday and enjoyed musical entertainment by '3's Company' a brilliant trio who regaled us with songs from all eras ranging from "I've got rhythm" to "Chatanooga Choo Choo" and with a nod to the W.I.' Calendar Girl' Then came the festive part of their programme when we joined in with the perennial favourites including 'Jingle Bell Rock' and the Bing Crosby hit 'White Christmas'

The festive finale to a brilliant afternoon was provided by one of Santa's elves who presented each of us with a gift from her capacious sack. Thus bringing yet another year of friendship and fun to a close.

Our February meeting to be held on Wednesday 15th February in Ugley Village Hall will start at the earlier time of 2pm. Tim Turner formerly of Sworders will be entertaining us with 'Royal Memories', Why not come along and join us for the afternoon. You'd be most welcome!

Andrea Fitt

01279815922.

Contacts for Hall Bookings in Henham

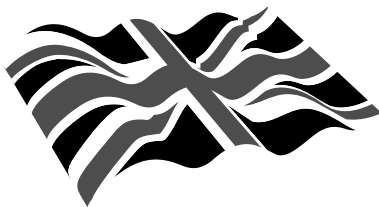
Church Hall Isobel Brooks 01279 850354

OSCA Judy Hughes 01279 850948 Or 0775 2292479

Village Hall Elaine Randall 01279 851893 or
henhamvillagehall@btinternet.com

HUSCH 01279 850213 or admin@henhamugley.essex.sch.uk

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References, Registration Docs and License Numbers Available upon request.



Henham Tennis Club News

Firstly a sincere thank you to Simon Price for his report in my absence last month. Delving back through the archives I was very surprised to say the least, to find that the first report I ever wrote was in December 2007!..although the first regular ones didn't start until the September of that year. As far as I can recall I hadn't actually missed a month, certainly not in recent times, until January 2023!..when we were holidaying in South Africa (for a wedding) and Namibia; not ideal places to be carrying a laptop!

As well as missing the club Christmas Dinner, family commitments prevented me joining in the entertainment at the Tinsel Tournament the day after Boxing Day. By all accounts there was a commendable turn out of members and a great time was had by all. Thanks to all participants especially to 'Jester' Dave (Reynolds) and Simona (who??..quoting Vanessa "for a really fun tournament...with some unexpectedly quirky rules...not forgetting the delicious mulled wine and nibbles.") What can a quirky rule be I hear you say! Well, I am reliably informed that the players were asked to a) play with wooden rackets (at least one player on each side), b) serve under arm, c) play one game without



'Jester' Dave with some of his merry band of players!

volleying, d) play a game when you had to serve and volley (interesting!) and e) all of the above...in one game!?!? Congratulations to the three joint winners: Louisa Layer, Fiona Price and Gary King...all of whom must surely claim to be the winner of Henham's Got Talent! Fortunately the 'big freeze' came and went, miraculously allowing the tennis to proceed!

I know it's a bit late but may I wish you all a belated Happy New Year. No doubt not only have your New Year Resolutions been made, but quite possibly broken or dismissed by now, which leads me on to another train of thought. What are the big tennis questions for 2023? With the Australian Open possibly done and dusted by the time you read this, will Nadal's body have held up? It seems his body is becoming increasingly reluctant and it may not be too long before he follows his great rival into retirement! However, he did win two Grand Slam titles in 2022 taking his tally to 22 major singles titles, and who knows, he just might have added the 23rd! Will Wimbledon allow Russians to play this year? Wimbledon faces a sensitive



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decision in the coming months as the war in Ukraine shows no sign of ending. Will Emma Raducanu find some consistency? After a year riddled with frequent injuries (and coaching changes) she said “My biggest goal in 2023 is to be more injury free.” I might just echo those sentiments myself! As it stands she hasn’t started off too well in that respect. Then there is the conundrum of Andy Murray; is it possible he can win another slam? Maybe, maybe not but he is certainly at ease with those interviews. I couldn’t resist sharing his answer in an interview conducted by brother Jamie. To the question: what is your favourite Christmas carol, Andy replied: “When Santa got stuck up the chimney.”!! Not exactly a correct answer me thinks!

What are the burning questions in Henham though? Who will be the Henham Champions? Will there be a Ladies Singles Champion this year? Come on Ladies, there are so many aspiring ladies playing now that the tournament is crying out for all you rusty rackets to enter into some fun and competitive match play. If enough of you enter there could even be a Plate Competition for first and second round losers, as is the case with the Pick’ n Mix Tournament. Will there be a ‘breakthrough’ junior to stun us all? Will the numbers attending club nights break all records? Will the summer be another scorcher? Will we all have fun keeping fit playing tennis? A resounding YES is what we need for the months ahead.

Many of you I am sure will remember David and Christine Butterworth who were staunch members of the club for many years during the 1980’s. It is with great sadness I learnt that David died suddenly just before Christmas. He and Christine were an essential part of the tennis family during those years, playing regularly in matches and social events. For the record, 1987 was David’s highlight year as he won both the Men’s Singles Championship plus the Men’s Doubles title (partnering Norman Elson). David was a loyal supporter of Oldham Athletic and I had the pleasure of attending a couple of matches with him against my local team, Swindon Town sitting in the Director’s Box! David’s father being a Director of Oldham at the time. On one occasion I was playing with him in a friendly match on a Saturday afternoon and Oldham were engaged in an important cup tie, so David played the match plugged in to his ‘Walkman’ so as not to miss THE match!! As his partner on this occasion I soon learnt that GOAL (true or false) actually meant YOURS!! As I remember there were certainly a few hold ups in the match...the tennis one that is! Those were the days. Thank you for the memories and may you rest in peace.

Our sincere condolences go to Christine and their daughters, Katherine and Susan, at this sad time.

John G Smith



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Friday 31st March

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The Village Calendar 2023

Please let us know of any future events that we can include in the village calendar, email henhandragon@hotmail.com or contact one of the committee members (phone numbers on the contents page)

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| February | | | |
| Thursday | 2 nd | Henham Parish Council meeting | OSCA 7.30pm |
| Saturday | 4 th | Book Sale | OSCA 10am – 4pm |
| Saturday | 18 th | Afternoon Teas | OSCA 2pm - 4pm |
| March | | | |
| Saturday | 18 th | Afternoon Teas | OSCA 2pm - 4pm |
| Friday | 31 st | Quiz night, see page opposite | OSCA 7.15pm |
| April | | | |
| Saturday | 15 th | Afternoon Teas | OSCA 2pm - 4pm |
| Sunday | 23 rd | Tennis Club Pick and Mix Finals | Henham Courts |
| May | | | |
| Saturday | 20 th | Afternoon Teas | OSCA 2pm - 4pm |
| June | | | |
| Saturday | 17 th | Afternoon Teas | OSCA 2pm - 4pm |
| July | | | |
| Saturday | 15 th | Afternoon Teas | OSCA 2pm - 4pm |
| August | | | |
| Saturday | 19 th | Afternoon Teas | OSCA 2pm - 4pm |
| September | | | |
| Saturday | 16 th | Afternoon Teas | OSCA 2pm - 4pm |
| October | | | |
| Saturday | 21 st | Afternoon Teas | OSCA 2pm - 4pm |
| November | | | |
| Friday | 10 th | Henham Christmas Market | |
| Saturday | 25 th | Afternoon Teas | OSCA 2pm - 4pm |
| December | | | |



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Village Diary

Regular clubs and meetings

Mondays

| | | | |
|---------------|----|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 9.00 - 10.00 | am | Pilates | OSCA |
| 10.00 - 12.00 | am | Tennis Ladies' Rusty Racquets | Henham Tennis Courts |
| 6.45 - 8.00 | pm | Springbok Classes | HUSCH |
| 7.00 - 9.00 | pm | Table Tennis Club | OSCA |

Tuesdays

| | | | |
|--------------|----|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| 9.15 - 11.15 | am | Badminton Club | HUSCH |
| 3.30 - 4.30 | pm | Junior Tennis | Elsenham Courts |
| 5.30 - 6.15 | pm | Street & Com. Dance: Age 8-10 | OSCA |
| 6.00 - 7.15 | pm | Cubs (term times) | OSCA |
| 6.15 - 7.20 | pm | Street & Com. Dance: Age 11+ | OSCA |
| 7.20 - 8.20 | pm | Adult Dance Class | OSCA |

Wednesdays

| | | | |
|-------------|----|----------------------|----------------------|
| 3.30 - 4:30 | pm | Junior Tennis | Henham Tennis Courts |
| 5.45 - 6.45 | pm | Beavers (term times) | OSCA |
| 7.00 - 9.00 | pm | Scouts (term times) | OSCA |
| 7.00 - 9.00 | pm | Badminton Club | HUSCH |

Thursdays

| | | | |
|---------------|----|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 9.00 -10.00 | am | Pilates | OSCA |
| 10.00 -11.00 | am | Pilates | OSCA |
| 10.30 - 11.30 | am | Little Fishes (in term time) | Church Hall |
| 3:30 - 4:30 | pm | Junior Tennis | Henham Tennis Courts |
| 7.45 - 9.00 | pm | Bell Ringing Practice | Henham Church |

Fridays

| | | | |
|--------------|----|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 9.00 - 10.30 | am | Tennis Ladies' 2 nd Team | Henham Tennis Courts |
| 5.45 - 6.45 | pm | Beavers (term times) | OSCA |

Saturdays

| | | | |
|--------------|----|---------------|------------------------|
| Meet at 9.00 | am | Omega Runners | Outside Vision Fitness |
| 10.15-12.45 | am | Junior Tennis | Henham Tennis courts |

Sundays

| | | | |
|-------------|----|----------------------|----------------------|
| 2.00 - 4.00 | pm | Tennis Ladder | Henham Tennis Courts |
| | | (matches permitting) | |

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Who likes talking about the weather?

I have been living in Henham for 40 years now since I got married to Linda and, being involved all that time in a local agricultural supply firm (HAM or HACS as some might know it in Little Hallingbury), I have taken a keen interest in the weather. Nothing gets farmers more excitable than looking at the forecast to see if they can work on the land in the next day or two. Wet periods disrupt drilling (sowing) the new crop as well as messing up harvest by making it very expensive to dry the wheat/barley down to 14% moisture (at this level it will store well) from as high as 20% in some years. This may sound a mere trifle of a difference to the uninitiated but it is very expensive to burn oil to heat the air to drive out the excess moisture from a thousand tons of wheat. In contrast very dry (often hot) periods as we had this last summer reduce yields and the farmer can do nothing but see his hard earned crops wilt and wither though, thankfully not die completely.

I have taken rainfall records all the time we have been here and I wonder what your perceptions are for that crucial part of our weather (I have not recorded temperature throughout all that period unfortunately).

In Henham we have a yearly average rainfall of just over 25 inches (25.4cm per inch for those not versed in proper imperial measures). This compares with a UK average of double that. This is why in Essex we grow nearly 50% of our wheat as quality bread making varieties whereas in the west they have too much rain at harvest to regularly grow these varieties since wet harvests ruin the ‘hagberg’ values, which determines how the bread will rise during baking. On the Essex coast one area gets only an annual average of 18 inches rain !!

My records reveal the wettest year was 2014 with 33.5 inches and the driest being 1996 with only 16.4 inches – quite a big difference I think you would agree. What is your impression of the wettest months? Winter seems to be the worst as it always seems to be wet, but this is false as we get a lot of drizzly days when the grass never dries but delivers a miserly amount of rain. Actually June has been the wettest over the 40 years with 2.63 inches compared with a monthly average of 2.14 inches. The next wettest is October with 2.57 inches. The driest has been February with only 1.25 inches.

Let's look at the seasonal figures:-

| | | | |
|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|
| Spring | 5.5 inches. | Autumn | 6.9 inches. |
| Summer | 7.2 inches. | Winter | 6.0 inches. |

Does that match your perceptions? The difference is that in late spring and into summer we get torrential thunderstorms sometimes delivering 2 or more inches in one day. How many will remember that day in August 1998 when a rain cloud sat over Henham for 10 hours and delivered ½ inch per hour totaling (is that a word!) **5 inches!!!!** Amazingly 10 miles away the farmers were continuing to harvest their wheat!!! That day our house came within 1 inch of being flooded when the ditch at the rear of our garden could not take it. But in summer when the sun shines after a big rain storm the grass soon dries and we can get on with the BBQ and we soon forget how wet it was except when we tip out the bucket.

Snow always gets the children excited but in late February 2018 we got the ‘Beast from the East’ with sub-zero conditions for days with blizzards piling up the snow over the UK (as well as Henham). Thousands of sheep perished in the uplands as they had not yet been brought in for lambing and 17 people died in the UK. Back in February 1991 we had nearly 4 weeks of sub-zero night time temperatures in Henham which dipped down to **-10°C** on the 7th with 10 inches of snow that day which drifted horrendously and blocked all of the three roads leading out of the village with feet deep of snow. It took nearly two days for the farmers to clear a way through. Five days later we had another 4 inches which lasted for a further few days. The village was so quiet with no traffic and a perfect blanket of snow everywhere. It was amazing how many residents discovered the village shop for the first time on those cold days. Similarly the same happened last month just before Christmas when we only got two inches of snow.

I hope you have enjoyed this trip down memory lane and that another weather buff will be able to recount in 40 years’ time to a new audience what we are now experiencing in the ups & downs of our Essex weather.

Richard Peake

Afternoon Teas

OSCA 2pm-4pm, Saturday 18th February.

If you live alone or spend a lot of time alone, please join us at the Afternoon Teas, for tea, sandwiches, homemade cakes and scones. Followed by a short Christian message.

All are most welcome. Please contact either Annabel Cottam 850257 or Olive Leader 850102 if you would like to join us for the first time.

In The Garden

Well Dear Reader, here we are in February 2023, only a couple of weeks of meteorological winter to go and we will officially be in Spring. I know that March and even April can still bring adverse weather conditions, but I always feel better knowing that the worst is (hopefully) behind us.

In the flower beds, this is your last chance to cut back any of the perennials you may have missed. If you have already done this, now is the time to apply a top dressing to boost the nutrients in the soil. I use “Blood, Fish & Bone”, but you can use bone meal or anything similar. Just sprinkle it by hand, applying it as evenly as you can. There is no need to fork or hoe it in, as the rain will wash it into the soil. With the ground as soft as it is at the moment, weeding is a much easier task and extremely important. With the beds having been cleared, it is easier to clear the weeds away.

If you have heated propagators, you can get an early start by sowing tomato seeds now. On sunny days, open the greenhouse for a few hours in the day for ventilation, but close the doors mid-afternoon to let the heat come back up in the sun. There are also many hardy annuals that can be started now. Busy Lizzies are a good example. Many people find them difficult to grow from seed, but after many different attempts, I seem to have found a method which works (fingers crossed)! Fill a seed tray with a good seed or multi-purpose compost. Sow the seeds finely all over the surface (broadcast), then cover with a light covering of vermiculite. Place the tray either in a heated propagator, or on a heat mat. If you are using a propagator, check regularly for germination and prick out as soon as the plants are big enough to handle. If you leave them for too long they will go spindly. Other plants you can start from seed now include Carnations and Pinks, Nicotiana, Antirrhinums and Canna. Soak Canna seeds in water overnight to soften the hard coating.

Summer flowering Clematis can be pruned now. Cut them back quite hard, to about 30 cm (12 inches) from the ground, making the cut just above a pair of buds. Similarly, Winter Jasmine can be cut back as soon as it finishes flowering. Cut back shoots which have flowered by about half. Try to avoid days when a hard frost is predicted.

I have a feeling that, having had yet another relatively warm winter, the Daffodils will be coming through early again this year, so keep a careful lookout when

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weeding if you are using a hoe. After all, you don't want to chop the tips off the leaves, do you?

Each year, I keep an area of what I call "Wild Garden". This is simply an area where you don't cut the grass and you let things develop naturally. I say "I", but this was actually my wife's idea and I must confess I was not too keen on it originally. Over the past few years, however, I have grown (excuse the pun) to appreciate it and even develop the idea. I think it is important that you demonstrate that a wild area is intentional and not just an excuse not to cut the grass in that part of the garden and so I cut clear paths around and through the area. I have also tried to enhance the area by planting loads of Daffodil, Snakehead Fritillaria and Anemone bulbs randomly. To achieve a random effect, I find the best way is to throw a handful of bulbs on the ground and plant them where they land. Unfortunately, by late July or early August, the area is starting to look very untidy and that is when I cut it down and bring it back to grass.

It's time for another of my "Not a lot of people know that" moments. Anyone who grows Broad Beans knows that blackfly is probably the biggest problem. Like Vampires, they suck the life blood out of the plants voraciously. One way to alleviate the problem is to pinch out the top three or four inches of new growth once the plant has reached a reasonable size. If you don't get the timing right, however, your efforts will be wasted. An easier way is to plant a few cloves of garlic in between the rows of beans. You won't smell the garlic unless the leaves are crushed, but the sensitive sense of smell of the blackfly will deter them and hopefully send them off to pastures new.

I know I'm spoiling you dear Reader, but I have yet another tip for you. With Spring approaching, it won't be long before those annoying Dandelions start to appear. If you don't want to risk using weedkiller on your precious lawn, or are afraid of breaking the root underground by trying to pull them out, a little table salt poured into the centre of the plant will do the trick. This will slowly burn the weed out within a couple of days.

Well, I think that's enough excitement for you for this month dear Reader. I'm torn between going for a lie down in a darkened room or dodging the rain and going to do some work in the greenhouse. In either case, I shall leave you in peace to mull over this month's pearls of wisdom and as usual, wish you "Happy Gardening" until next month.

Norman Elson



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The Hundred Parishes Society

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Flowering snowdrops are a welcome sight in early February. Although not native to this country, these spring-flowering bulbs were planted in churchyards from the 16th century onwards. As their seeds are dispersed by ants, they have become naturalised in suitable locations such as hedgerows. Snowdrops carpet parts of Hatfield Forest and the gardens of Audley End and Easton Lodge where visitors can admire them; smaller clusters will be present in most of the churchyards around the Hundred Parishes.



Snowdrops in Stansted Mountfitchet Churchyard.

Snowdrops are easily seen, but other early spring flowers will follow them as the days lengthen. Yellow-flowered primroses, winter aconites and lesser celandines appear alongside sweet violets. All these flowers produce pollen and nectar, vital food for early-foraging honeybees, queen bumblebees and other insects. Surveys of churchyards indicate they can be havens for wildflowers often supporting species which have become rare in the wider countryside.

The Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland organises a wildflower hunt to record what is in flower at the start of the year. The aim is to record how flowers are responding to a warming climate. Enthusiasts search their local area, noting what is in flower. This year, the number of species recorded within the Hundred Parishes was much reduced, almost certainly due to the wintry weather experienced in December.

More flowers will bloom as spring advances, so I encourage you to enjoy one or more of the walks or open gardens listed on www.hundredparishes.org.uk - or visit your local churchyard. If you are able, take some photos of what is in flower to share with friends or family or post them on Facebook, perhaps on The Hundred Parishes Facebook group. **Tricia Moxey, Trustee**

Henham Table Tennis news

Tournament report The first annual Henham Dragons table tennis mixed doubles tournament took place at OSCA hall on the last Friday of the year. All couples played each other in a round robin league, best of five games and the top two couples played in the final for the trophies.

The experience of Dave Reynolds and Sue Stewart who were unbeaten in all matches on the day overcame the two youngsters, brother and sister Isaac and Beth Wilson to claim victory by three games to nil, good play and fun was had by all that took part on the day.

League report Henham table tennis club have entered the Harlow league this year and after a slow start in a very competitive league, we are starting to grind out some good results and with 10 of the 18 matches left in the season I am confident of climbing up the league, the league squad consists of myself, Dave Reynolds, Brian Brooks, Alex and Louisa Layer, Ali Maxwell and Isaac Wilson.

Club nights Every Monday evening, the table tennis club sessions are held at



OSCA hall between 7pm and 9pm, everyone is welcome to come, the cost is £3 per evening, we are currently running two tables.

Peter Brown
Henham Table
Tennis Secretary
📞 Tel 07968-126265

District Councillor Report

As Leader and Chair of the Community Achievement Awards Working Group, Petrina was honoured to be asked, in January, to celebrate the heroes in our district, for their hundreds of hours of volunteering work. Cllr Asker presented the awards and Petrina, as Chair of the Committee which decides the awards was delighted to address the gathering. We are extremely fortunate to have so many people in Uttlesford who give up their time for others. This awards event is really important as it highlights what a vital contribution volunteers make to our lives every day - the value they bring to their communities is inspirational. This list included the Henham Dragon Editorial team, nominated by Henham Parish Council. A well-deserved accolade.

There is good news regarding the five years' housing land supply values which are relevant under the NPPF (as it currently stands) linked to a "presumption in favour of sustainable development" which is applicable unless five years' supply can be demonstrated. The updated value of 4.89 years as of 1 April 2022 has been published recently. We have noted that planning applicants who have submitted applications recently are still referring to the prior data, but the UDC Development Management team are, we understand including on the planning application portal the updated position so that any reader of it can familiarise themselves with the accurate position. Applicants are still using UDC for their planning decisions and we will continue to refuse if we feel it is not the right development. Of course, the Appeal route is still available.

Disappointingly without consultation, we have been informed that the ECC-funded Highways Rangers Service will end on/around April. We are aware it is a service valued by so many, sadly we have been unable secure alternative funding. We will seek to redeploy the valued and hard working Highways Rangers staff into other roles within UDC. May we also ask that potholes are reported to Essex Highways. Hall Rd leading to the airport is becoming more dangerous and needs addressing.

To help with the cost-of-living crisis, visit www.uttlesford.gov.uk/cost-of-living.

Our Surgery this month is Thurs 16th February at 19.00 at Orwell House, Station rd, Elsenham. We are always available via telephone/zoom or surgery.

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The way you vote is changing

The government has introduced new voter security measures which means, for the first-time, voters will have to show photo ID at the polling station.

Acceptable ID will include a passport, photo driving licence and a national concessionary bus pass. The full list will be available on the back of the poll card.

If you do not have any of the ID required, you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate that will be posted direct to your registered address. Full details of this process will be published in January.

The next elections to take place will be the local council elections on Thursday 4 May 2023.

You need to be on the electoral register to vote in elections and it may also be helpful when you want to get credit for things such as a mortgage or loan.

Please note that paying council tax does not automatically add you to the electoral register.

The easiest way to register is to go online. Visit www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

Poll cards are changing.

A poll card will be sent to all registered electors at the end of March. These will now be A4 sized and delivered in an envelope. The poll card is still for information purposes and not a requirement for voting.

Polling stations will be open 7am to 10pm on Thursday 4 May 2023 – however, if you would prefer you can apply for a postal or proxy vote. You can download the application form from our website or contact email us at elections@uttlesford.gov.uk or call on 01799 510510.

Further information can be found by visiting these sites;

www.uttlesford.gov.uk/local-elections-2023

www.electoralcommission.org.uk.

My Great Great Grandmother's recipe for Green Tomato Chutney

I found this recipe in my grandmother's recipe book and then noticed she had added that it was her grandmothers' recipe!

Last year, I used the recipe to use up my green tomatoes and served it on Boxing Day when it was much appreciated with the usual cold meats and bubble and squeak! It is amazing how recipes remain relevant; I thought I would share it with you. It certainly brought back fond memories and I hope my children will continue the tradition. In places, it is a little vague but that leaves room for imagination. I made a second batch with cashews and sultanas.

Three pounds of tomatoes, slice, sprinkle with salt and leave for 24 hours, drain well

Three large apples (cored and chopped)

Three large onions, chopped

One ounce garlic, optional

Three shallots, chopped

One and a quarter pound of demerara sugar

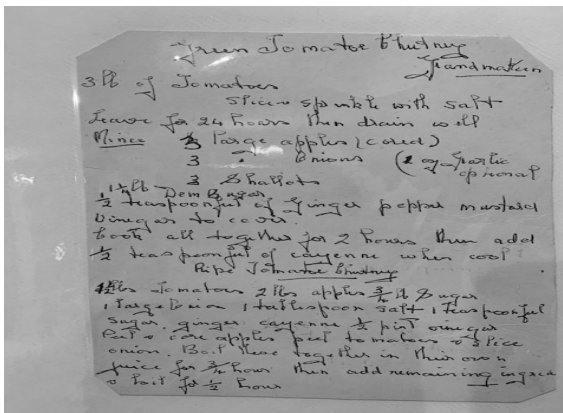
Half a teaspoon of ginger, pepper and of mustard

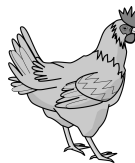
Vinegar to cover

Cook all together for two hours

Add half a teaspoon of Cayenne pepper when cool

Miranda Roberts





Daisy May's Farm

Hall Road, Elsenham, CM22 6DN

What a year 2022 was! It was lovely to see so many of you throughout the year and you just loved '**Chicks@home,**' '**Love a Lamb**' and '**Cuddle a Kid**'. These all went down a storm and we will be repeating them again this year and more.

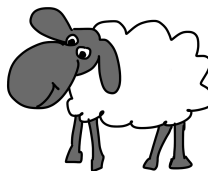
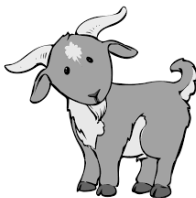
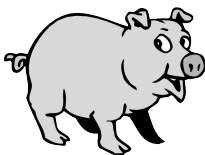
What a fabulous summer we had, and it was great to have you staying at our wild campsite on our farm and we look forward to welcoming you back this summer!

Our beach by the river was brilliant fun especially as it was so hot, but for the time being, you need to get your wellies out because you just know it's going to be muddy. Come and enjoy the **Woodland Trail**, our **arts and crafts**, the **play area**, the **Snack Shack**, but most of all.... our **lovely animals!** We have a great variety of animals from cute bunnies and guinea pigs to our ponies and pigs and we also have sheep, goats, owls, rheas, ducks, geese, all sorts of chickens and of course, their cute babies.

Blow those cobwebs away with a visit to our farm and see what has been going on over the winter and what we have planned for 2023.

Do keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates and to see what is going on, particularly for our half-term shenanigans!

Thank you so much for your support and we look forward to seeing you again soon.





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- * Home improvement grants
- * Priority services register
- * And more!

They can be reached by calling 01799 618858

Or emailing warmhomes@uttlesfordca.org.uk

You can also make a secure referral through [Uttlesford Frontline](#).

Uttlesford Citizens Advice are here to help from home. We review all email messages on help@uttlesfordca.org.uk every working day and can also receive voicemail messages from 01799 618840. We have a team of staff and volunteers that will contact you via email or phone - please be aware however that the number we call on will be blocked and we only will call you if you have specifically asked for help from us.

TouchPoint Stansted Mountfitchet

TouchPoint is a community hub in Stansted Mountfitchet. It is run by a team of volunteers. The aim is to help connect people who need support with those that can offer it, in a friendly and welcoming space. Their community has so much to offer in terms of skills, knowledge, and experience.

TouchPoint run a community Foodshare, available to all in the community. Check their website for details of timings.

At the heart of the centre is the Touchpoint Community café. It is a friendly and relaxing spot, open on Thursdays from 11am-5pm, and Fridays 8.30 to 12pm.

TouchPoint host regular sessions with partner organisations including those able to advise on debt management and budgeting, access to employment and developing digital skills.

They have a wonderful community garden cared for entirely by volunteers. Find out more at <https://theTouchPoint.org> , or one of our sessions at Crafton Green House, 72 Chapel hill, Stansted Mountfitchet, CM23 8AQ

TouchPoint would welcome volunteers, contact us on 07572 114882 or info@thetouchpoint.org

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Instagram: cockinnathenham

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| BLACK BIN (non-recyclables) | Thursday 9th, 23rd |
| GREEN BIN (recyclables) | Thursday 2nd, 16th |
| GREEN GARDEN WASTE | Thursday 2nd, 16th |

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Shop:- Monday to Friday 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 4.30pm

Saturday 9am to 1pm, Sunday 9.30am to 12.30pm

Telephone 850644

Deadline for submitting articles for the March edition is Sunday 12th February. Please send your contributions to Wendy Hogg by email as an attachment to **henhamdragon@hotmail.com**

Editorial policy is to use Times New Roman font size of 14 points on A4 paper with left and right margins of 2.5cm. Different fonts and sizes are acceptable but may be changed to ensure the final article is easy to read. The committee reserves the right to edit contributions and does not take responsibility for the information given or the views expressed in The Dragon, nor is any culpability accepted for work undertaken by the advertisers.

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Rates for one-off advertisements in the Dragon are as follows:-

Full page £60.00, Half page £30.00, Quarter page £20.00

Small ads (non-commercial) placed by village residents £5.00.

Village functions and charity fundraising events are advertised free.

We are now taking enquiries for the advertising year from April 2023 to March 2024. Contact Sheena Bigland on 01279 850373 or email henhamdragon@hotmail.com for details. Annual advertising must be placed by mid-February

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