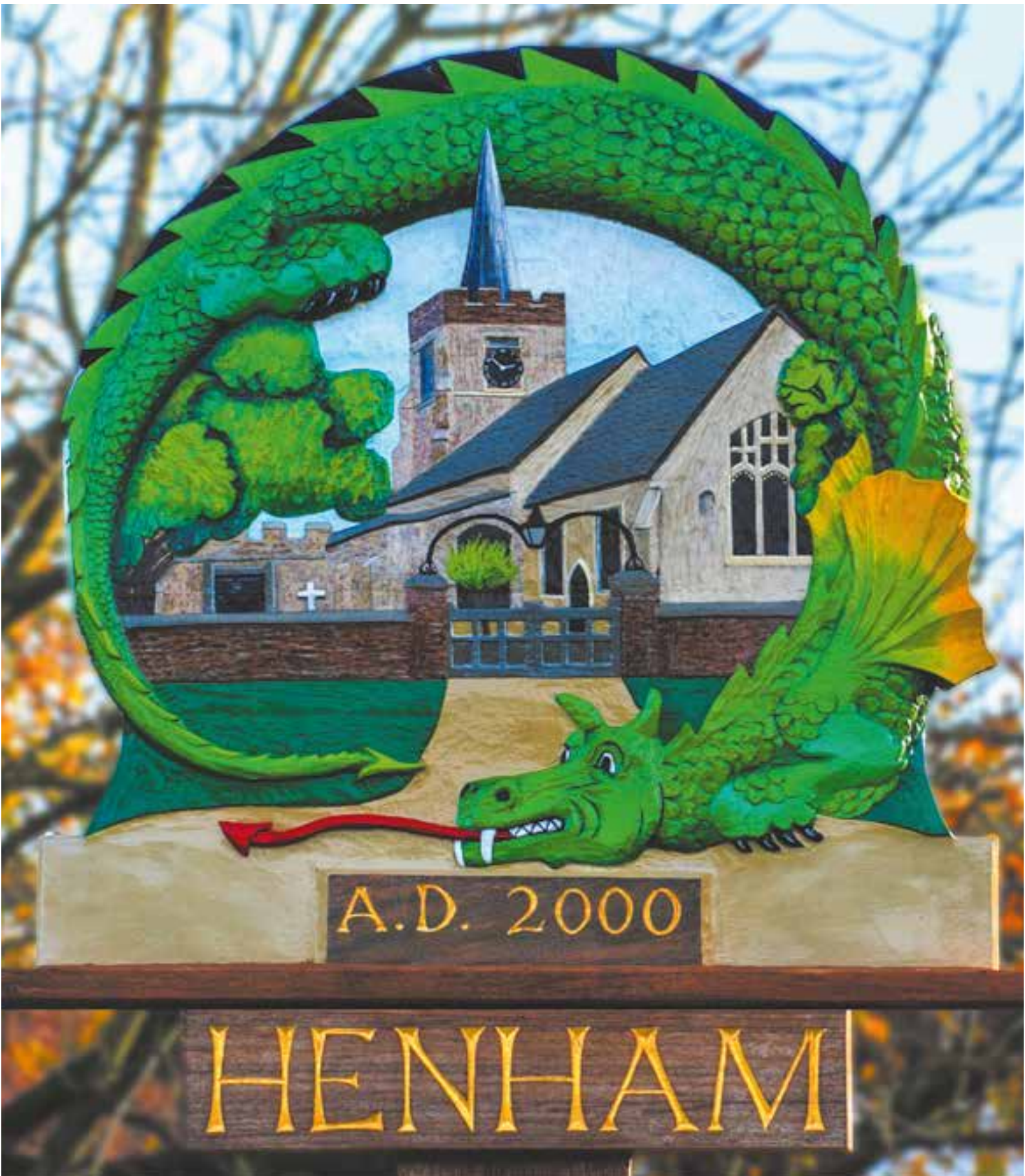


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July Dragon



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Editorial

At last, we have some warm weather, and hopefully this will continue for the super 3k / 10k Fun Run which is taking place on 1st and 2nd July. Please do support this event which is raising funds for the school. Our thanks go to all the volunteers who are helping, be that in the organisation, marshalling the water stations, helping at the start line or with refreshments.

We are still in the process of setting up our new email so please send any contributions to henhamdragon@hotmail.com by 12th July.

Wendy Hogg

Letter

Dear Editor,

An update to the continued reporting of potholes in the village.

Cllr. Ray Gooding was at the Henham Parish Council meeting in May when he said that monies from Government have been allocated for potholes to be temporarily filled in the district. I do not understand why a temporary fill is better than doing the job properly, but it does go some way to reducing the immediate problem. He thanked me for my part in logging the potholes and broken drains.

You will have noticed that some potholes were indicated by a white paint surround, these were temporarily filled but a red paint line has since been put around a larger area. Essex Highways have sent the following reply to my query about this matter:

“Markings differ from Make Safes and full repairs. Make safes are repaired fully at later date, as in many cases a road closure is needed. Re the extra £17.4m this is additional to monies already in budget and is for the whole county.”

I have logged the potholes in Dark/Lark Lane which leads to Little Henham. The ones on the Debden Road are in the process of being photographed in preparation for logging this month, June, so should be logged before you receive this update at the end of the month.

I am hoping that the logging of these potholes with the Council and Essex Highways will speed up the repairs.

Yours sincerely

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Henham and Ugley Primary and Nursery School

Message from the Co-Chairs of the Governing Body

Hello Henham!

You may have already heard the news that our wonderful Headteacher, Kim Hall, will be leaving us at the end of the summer and moving onto pastures new. There will, of course, be lots of opportunity to say thank you and goodbye, but on behalf of the governing body we wanted to share our thanks with you, the village.

Kim has been at our school for seven years and has made an enormous impact, not only with her personality, kindness, and dedication but to the education and achievement of all our children.

Kim was key to ensuring our children got through lockdown and, along with her incredible team, supporting families when Covid made the world a hard place to be.

She has nurtured our young carers, cheered on our sports people, and created the most impressive outfits for non-uniform days.



Always a friendly welcoming smile at the school gates every morning, rain or shine, Kim has led our school on an incredible journey and we thank her for that.

Kim, we wish you every happiness and success going forward and thank you sincerely for all you have done for Henham and its legacy.

Let us introduce you to our new Headteacher, Mr Ben Davey.

A message from Ben:

“I would like to express my pleasure and excitement at being offered this position at such a lovely school. I instantly fell in love with the school and its ethos as a close-knit community school and assure you that I am committed to providing the absolute best experiences and education for your children.



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The children are my priority and what I value most in education is happy and excited children that thrive on that love for learning. Originally from Cornwall, I now live in Essex and have been working in London for several years in a large primary school.

I am very much looking forward to meeting all of you.



And finally, with lots of changes happening in school we would like to share with you all one of the new initiatives - Our Community Partnership.

It's true what the old proverb says, it does take a village, and our village has everything to offer. We want to bring our community into school, to make it the best it can be – but we need your help.

Do you or anyone you know have time to support our school, either with time, resource or skill?

Perhaps you are creative? Or an avid reader?

Could you sponsor part of the curriculum? Could you share life experiences? Everyone has something special – would you be happy to share yours with us?

If you are interested and feel you can offer us something – please contact s.farrell@henhamugley.essex.sch.uk who will be happy to chat!

Thank you so much!!

Jo Goldsmith and Mary Compton (Co-Chairs of the Governing Body)

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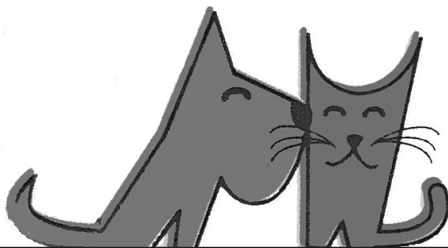
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Cub Camp 2023



The day dawns bright and warm as we head to Thriftwood Scouting campsite for a weekend of adventure. On arrival, excited leaders greet each other as we get the camp ready for our Cubs arrival. Our own children chip in and demonstrate all they have learnt during their time in Scouting, putting up tents whilst speaking excitedly of all that is to come and exploring the glen between the trees that will be our home for the weekend.

We walk to meet our Cubs at reception where they chatter with friends, waiting excitedly to see our camp. Goodbyes are said, parents wondering how they will fare overnight, but the Cubs don't look back, walking towards camp, carrying more bags than their parents ever thought possible, already away on their adventure.

First up is an enormous climbing area, beams stretching 12 metres into the air. Faces stare up with excitement and fear as our instructor straps on harnesses. The first Cub steps forward, bravely climbing up a beam to the ropes,



whilst the others cheer and encourage from below. One Cub, not sure if he is brave enough, gives it a go with the encouragement of the others, and makes it up to the first platform, so proud at the end to have achieved something he never thought possible, a big beam of a smile spreading across his face.

Later that night the campfire is lit and an impromptu performance of circus skills emerges, with Cubs performing acts they have mastered at previous meetings. Cheeks aglow in the firelight as marshmallows are toasted and hot chocolate is drunk before we all head to our tents for some much-needed sleep.

The adventures continue bright and early the next morning, with stern words of safety and encouragement spoken at axe-throwing, followed by delighted cheers as axes hit targets! Then onto water zorbing with peals of laughter ringing out across the lake as we tumble and fall over the water trying to stay upright in our inflatable balls.

We send the Cubs home on Sunday, watching them walk into the distance, full of tales of their adventures, exhausted happy faces smiling up at parents, arms around shoulders. We are so proud of all they have achieved. This is the power of Scouting. Talk turns to our next camp as we pack up and how we can't wait to do it all again.

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News from the Gardens of Easton Lodge

June started as hoped, with the Gardens looking gorgeous, in particular the wild orchids on the bank in the Glade, the waterlilies spreading and with lots of flowers and the first of the roses; and with a good asparagus season behind us! But as I write, a bit of trepidation is beginning to creep in, because there is no rain in the forecast. If June is dry, our volunteers will be getting their steps in doing lots of watering. We should, hopefully, have enough water in the well and in the new butts to look after our new trees and shrubs and, of course, to raise the veg in the walled kitchen garden, so that come July we will have produce to sell to visitors on weekly Open Thursdays and for the monthly Open Day.



Our 16 July Open Day is the day of the year when we focus on the world war history of the Gardens – “Perfect Vintage” singing duo will help us get in the mood, with Vera Lynn songs and other classic swing tracks and vintage banter. There will be a range of stalls and our archivists will present the stories of the

Earl of Warwick’s involvement with the Essex Imperial Yeomanry in the run up to World War I; and of the airmen and women stationed at the neighbouring Great Dunmow airfield in the 1940s, using their down time to recuperate in the

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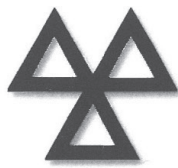
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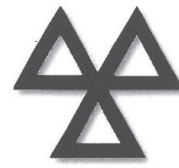
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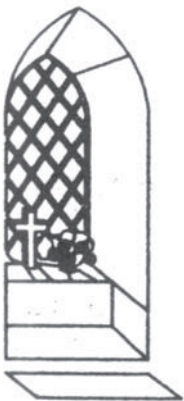
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16 July Open Day 11.00-5.00, last entry 4.00. £6.50 on the Gate or £5.50 if bought in advance via the Trust's website or through www.Trybooking.com .

Jill Goldsmith

UGLEY WI

An array of delightful headgear, damask tablecloths, chintz, china and dainty sandwiches and cakes were all part of our May meeting. This was an afternoon tea to celebrate the Coronation, funded by a donation from Edna Wright, a long-standing member of our institute who, although she has left the area, continues to support us with her friendship and membership.

Our July meeting will be held in Ugley Village Hall on Wednesday 19th July at 2pm. Our speaker will be Lynn Croot who is no stranger to us, as she has entertained us on a few occasions. She will be telling us of her life as a scuba diver on her paradise island of Tobago.

Why not 'dive in' and join us for the afternoon? You'd be most welcome!

Andrea Fitt, 01279815922

Contact Numbers for Hall Bookings in Henham

Church Hall Isobel Brooks 01279 850354

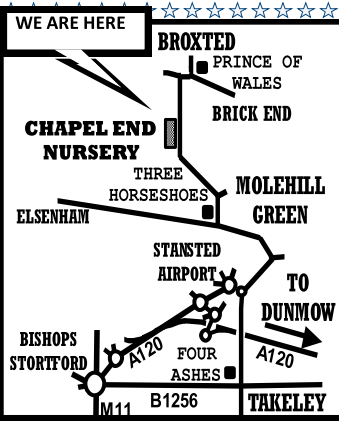
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Audley End Volunteers

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If you like the idea and want to have an informal discussion or need more information, please check out the English Heritage Website at <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/support-us/Volunteer/> , or contact the Volunteer Manager at Ed.Welch@english-heritage.org.uk

Stansted U3A

At our meeting on 20th July, Ray Newman will tell us about the work of a real UK Cold Case Team. Ray, a former DCI, became one of the founding members of the Essex Police Major Crime Review Team after retirement, which investigated a number of, then unsolved, murders and missing person cases.

There will be a lighter topic in August - 'Charity Shops'. Tony Earle thinks that they yield up lots of interesting bits and bobs, but so far has found no 'Treasure!'

Saturday 19th August will see Professor Patrick Parrinder giving a seminar on HG Wells, "The Realist and the Dreamer", at the Free Church Hall 9.30-12 noon. Many of you will know that he lived at Little Easton Rectory from 1912 to 1930 and I am sure you have all enjoyed at least one of his books. Tickets £7 from saturdayseminars@gmail.com

There will be another Saturday Seminar on 2nd September Titled 'Saving Humanity with a Doughnut!'. The speaker, Meryl Wingfield, will confront this dilemma - people talk about 'Saving the Planet' but will the planet or our grandchildren, survive our exploitation?

We have many group activities which we are sure many of you will enjoy. They are run by members for members and cover a wide range of interests. Please look at our website for details.

All our free monthly meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month, at St John's Church Hall 1.30pm for 2.00pm; free tea and coffee will be served. If you are a prospective new member, please come along and introduce yourself to one of the committee members and you will be made very welcome.

Eileen Quinn Tel: 07874 385541. **E-mail** stanstedu3a@gmail.com



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Uttlesford District Council covers around half of the Hundred Parishes area. The Council has designated thirty-three Conservation Areas within the area. For each it has published an appraisal that defines the area covered and explains the reasons for designation,



(see <https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/conservation-area-appraisals>).

These appraisals are often a helpful source for the kind of information provided in the route descriptions for walks that can be downloaded from www.hundredparishes.org.uk.

East Hertfordshire has the second biggest representation within the Hundred Parishes and this district council has designated twenty-six Conservation Areas. Their appraisals are also available and provide valuable insight,(see <https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/planning-and-building/conservation-areas>) Similar appraisals are available from the other district councils that are represented within the Hundred Parishes: South Cambridgeshire, Braintree, North Herts, Chelmsford and Epping Forest.





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Within South Cambs, Linton has the only “Outstanding Conservation Area” designation, including Linton’s long High Street and some lanes on either side. Much of this area is explored on Walk 182 whose route covers less than 2 miles.

Our towns and villages are usually best explored on foot, and each is included in at least one of the Hundred Parishes routes. If you are able to get out and about, I encourage you to try them.

Ken McDonald, Secretary

2023 Village Calendar

July		
Saturday 1 st	Henham 10k / 3k “Freestyle” Run	School from 9am
Sunday 2 nd	Henham 10k / 3k Race Day	School 3k at 9.30am, 10k at 10.15am
Thursday 6 th	Parish Council Meeting	OSCA 7.30pm
Saturday 8 th	Tennis Club Finals Day	Courts from 10am
Saturday 15 th	Afternoon Teas	OSCA 2pm – 4pm

August

Saturday 19th Afternoon Teas OSCA 2pm – 4pm

September

Saturday 16th Afternoon Teas OSCA 2pm – 4pm

October

Saturday 14th OSCA Quiz OSCA 7 for 7.30pm

Saturday 21st Afternoon Teas OSCA 2pm – 4pm

November

Friday 10th Henham Christmas Market OSCA, Village Hall

December

Saturday 2nd Afternoon Teas OSCA 2pm – 4pm

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



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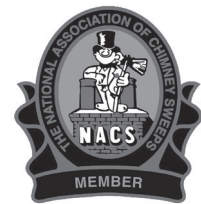


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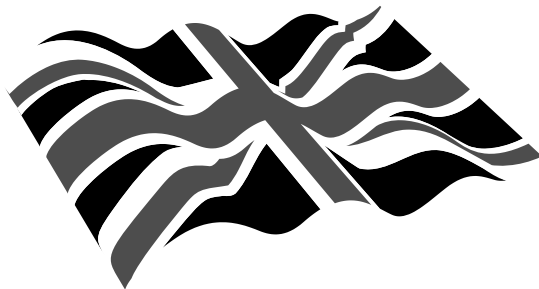
The April lorry left on 26th and arrived safely after a five-day journey in Romania and clearing EU customs in Rotterdam. Some of the goods were given free to nearly forty needy families in Mărășești (not far from the border with Ukraine), as nominated by the local Baptist church, and others by the town mayor. The better-quality goods are sold through our charity shop with proceeds helping the same poor sections of the population with health, education and improving their terrible housing conditions.

Our warehouse is now waiting to be filled for the October lorry. We are now collecting **winter** clothes and shoes for adults and **children** (anything for children under three years must be new). Single and Z beds with mattresses (sturdy iron or wooden framed beds are very desirable - no divans). Cushions, bed sheets, pillows, duvets and blankets (single and double), towels, toiletries (including loo rolls), umbrellas and rugs (no carpet offcuts). Building and workshop tools (also some types of gardening tools and sturdy wheelbarrows) and a sack barrow. Surplus school tables that have a two-foot clearance underneath ie not infant and stackable adult size chairs (please ask any contact with a local school or village hall who are/maybe re-furbishing). Sturdy chest of drawers (not flat pack built as these do not survive the five-day truck journey to Romania), bedside cabinets, kitchen/dining tables (either drop-leaf or removable legs). **I am very short of BIKES**. Irons and boards as well as air driers for laundry. Kitchen items (crockery, cutlery, utensils, pots/pans – especially big sizes eg preserving pans). Wheelchairs, crutches, walking sticks, zimmers. Bandages and dressings (*absolutely NO pills, medicines or creams*). Rucksacks and holdalls (must be in good condition). **Costume jewellery**. Footballs. Ear defenders for the manual workers and high-viz vests/jackets. Small toys such as push-along cars, cuddly soft toys etc (no big toys as these cause much jealousy!). Christmas trees and decorations etc.

Cash donations for the cost of the lorry are very welcome; it now costs more to send due to having to clear customs in Rotterdam.

If you have any of the above, please bring them around to 1 Hall Close, Henham during July. Contact Richard Peake first on 01279 850374 or 07831 406225 to arrange delivery etc.

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Church News

Reverend Louis Wilson Writes



I recently took a wedding for a delightful couple in a neighbouring Essex benefice that is without a Vicar. In case they were at a loose end on honeymoon, I recommended they read a book on Christian marriage called *On Marriage* written by Tim Keller and his wife Kathy.

I suggested this because I have often found Tim Keller to be one of the clearest and most insightful pastors you can read. I was therefore very saddened to hear that he died just a few weeks ago aged 72. A cursory glance at my bookcase reveals at least six or seven books all of which I have read, and all of which I have found extremely influential.

In 1989, he moved to Manhattan and founded Redeemer Presbyterian Church. Then came a formidably fruitful quarter-century in New York City. Someone has commented: *“Many preachers have built megachurches; relatively few have done so with conversion growth in a highly secular and urban environment steeped in biblical illiteracy”*.

Probably the most important Tim Keller book I’ve read is *The Prodigal God*, which is an explanation of one of Jesus’ best known but least understood stories, the parable of the prodigal son. The word prodigal means recklessly extravagant. The younger son in the story is recklessly extravagant with his father’s estate and yet his father delights to forgive and restore this son: a picture of how God the Father treats us.

What is often overlooked however is that the father in the story has two sons. On the surface the older son’s behaviour is exemplary: where the younger son squandered his father’s money in wild living, the older son worked dutifully in his father’s fields. But where the younger son was lost in self-indulgence, it turns out that the older son was equally lost - but in self-righteousness.

It is such a reminder, actually a warning, that however good we are, however hard we work, however many rules we keep, whatever our appearance, without recklessly extravagant grace, we’re all lost. And in Christ, recklessly extravagant or prodigal grace is what God offers us.

All this and more is what Tim Keller helped me see and for which I am very thankful.



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- We provide information, support and advice about your hair loss and identify the factors you will need to consider when choosing which solution is suitable for you.
- We provide guidance on cutting and styling of your wig or integration piece and advice on what to do when your hair starts growing back.

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

Whatever the cause of your hair loss or the extent of the hair loss, we are here to help you.

Let me finish with a quotation which I found from him on The Gospel Coalition (TGC) website (a coalition he helped to found):

“The gospel is that I am so sinful that Jesus had to die for me, yet so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me. This leads to deep humility and deep confidence at the same time. I can’t feel superior to anyone, and yet I have nothing to prove to anyone.”

Tim Keller (1950-2023)

With best wishes, Louis.

From The Parish Registers

Wedding:

- At St Mary’s Church, Elsenham on 17th June 2023, the marriage of Leanne Andrews and Nicholas Barker.

Funeral:

- A Service of Thanksgiving on 20th June 2023 at Henham Church, followed by a burial in the churchyard, Muriel Patricia Wright, formerly of Alsa Leys, Elsenham.

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

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

Enquiries about thanksgivings, baptisms, weddings and funerals should be made in the first instance to Anna Hicks at the Church Office 01279 814285.

Afternoon Teas

If you live alone or spend a lot of time alone, you are most welcome to join us for afternoon tea at OSCA on 15th July 2 – 4pm.

The teas are run by Henham Church and further details are available from Annabel Cottam 850257 or Olive Leader 850102.

Church Services

Sunday 2nd July

- 10:15** All Together All Age Service,
Elsenham Village Hall
18:00 Sunday@6, Henham Church

Sunday 9th July

- 08:45** Prayer Book Holy Communion,
Elsenham Church
10:00 Morning Service, Ugley Church
10:15 Holy Communion,
Elsenham Village Hall
11:15 Morning Service,
Henham Church
18:00 Sunday@6, Henham Church

Sunday 16th July

- 08:45** Prayer Book Morning Prayer,
Elsenham Church
10:00 Prayer Book Communion,
Ugley Church
10:15 Morning Service,
Elsenham Village Hall
11:15 Holy Communion,
Henham Church
18:00 Sunday@6, Henham Church

Sunday 23rd July

- 08:45** Prayer Book Morning Prayer,
Elsenham Church
10:00 Morning Service, Ugley Church
10:15 Morning Service,
Elsenham Village Hall
11:15 Morning Service,
Henham Church
18:00 Sunday@6 Communion,
Henham Church

Sunday 30th July

- 08:45** Prayer Book Morning Prayer,
Elsenham Church
10:00 Morning Service, Ugley Church
10:15 Morning Service,
Elsenham Village Hall
11:15 Morning Service,
Henham Church
18:00 Sunday@6, Henham Church

Other regular events

SUNDAYS:

St Peter's Junior Church

St Peter's, Ugley 10.00am

Sundays: 9th & 16th

Elsenham Sunday Club/Explorers

(Y1-Y6) Old Franks, Elsenham

10.15am Sundays: 9th & 16th

Henham Sunday Club/Explorers

(Reception-Y5) Church Hall,

Henham 11.00am Sundays: 9th & 16th

Pathfinders (Y6-Y9)

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

Sundays: 2nd, 9th & 16th

Crammin' (Y10-Y13)

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

Henham Sundays: 2nd, 9th & 16th

MID-WEEK AND SATURDAY:

Start the Week with Prayer

Church Hall, Henham 9.30am

Mondays: 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st

Seekers After School Bible Club

(Y3-Y4) Old Frank's 3.20pm

Mondays: 3rd & 10th

Christian Play (Y1-Y2)

Rowan House, Elsenham 3.15pm

Tuesdays: 4th & 11th

Little Fishes Pre-School Group

Church Hall, Henham 10.15am

Thursday: 6th

Little Fishes Pre-School Group

Elsenham Memorial Hall 10.00am

Fridays: 7th, 14th & 21st

Church Lunch Club

Elsenham Memorial Hall 12.30pm

Fridays: (2nd & 4th Friday of the
month): 14th & 28th

Afternoon Tea

OSCA, Henham 2.00pm

Saturday: 15th

Village Diary

Regular Clubs and Meetings in the Village

Mondays

9.00 - 10.00	am	Pilates	OSCA
10.00 - 12.00	am	Tennis, Ladies Rusty Racquets	Henham Courts
3.15 - 4.00	pm	Junior Tennis	Henham Courts
6.45 - 8.00	pm	Springbok Classes	HUSCH
7.00 start	Pm	Omega Running/ Walking Club	Meet outside The Cock Inn
7.00 - 9.00	pm	Table Tennis Club	OSCA

Tuesdays

9.15 - 11.15	am	Badminton Club	HUSCH
5.30 - 6.15	pm	Street & Com Dance (8-10 yrs)	OSCA
6.00 - 7.15	pm	Cubs (term time)	OSCA
6.15 - 7.20	pm	Street & Com Dance (11+yrs)	OSCA
7.20 - 8.20	pm	Adult Dance	OSCA

Wednesdays

2.00 - 2.45	pm	Junior Tennis	Henham Courts
3.15 - 4.30	pm	Junior Tennis	Henham Courts
5.30	pm	Tennis Club Session	Henham Courts
5.45 - 6.45	pm	Beavers (term time only)	OSCA
7.00 - 9.00	pm	Scouts (term time only)	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 (term time)	Church Hall
3.30 - 4.30	pm	Junior Tennis	Henham Courts
7.45 - 9.00	pm	Bell Ringing Practice	Henham Church

Fridays

9.00 - 10.30	am	Tennis Ladies 2 nd Team	Henham Courts
5.45 - 6.45	pm	Beavers (term time only)	OSCA

Saturdays

Meet at 9.00	am	Omega Runners	Outside Vision Fitness
9.30 - 11.45	am	Junior Tennis	Henham Courts

Sundays

4.30	pm	Tennis Ladder (matches permitting)	Henham Courts
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Details of classes at Vision Fitness Gym, Parsonage Farm can be found on their website visionfitnesshenham.co.uk

In the Garden



Hello again Dear Reader, it's that time again. The Dragon publishing deadline approaches and I am nowhere near ready. Onwards and upwards then!

At the time of writing (early June), the weather has been very un-summer like. The evenings have been rather chilly and the days, although mainly dry, have also been cooler than one would expect. We have been promised some much warmer weather shortly, so fingers crossed.

Continue the pruning of early flowering shrubs. Unless the shrub has grown too large, it will only require light pruning. Cut stems which have flowered back to a strong new shoot and remove any dead or unwanted branches. As roses start to fade, dead head them with a pruning cut (cut the stalk bearing the dead flower back to just above an outward facing leaf joint with a diagonal cut) and you should get another flush of flowers. Continue dead heading other herbaceous perennials as they fade. If you cut the stems of Lupins and Delphiniums down to ground level, you may well get lucky and get a second show of flowers.

You can now start planting late-flowering bulbs such as Nerines. These will lengthen the flowering period of your garden into late September. I usually plant Nerines in pots and place them in the border, as they are not completely hardy in a harsh winter.

Chrysanthemums are approaching their flowering time about now. If you want fewer but larger blooms, remove the two smaller buds either side of the main bud. You can do the same with Dahlias if you wish.

Lift and store Hyacinth and Tulip bulbs, keeping only those in good condition. Lay them out in single layers in a cool dry place and leave them until they dry out completely. They can then be cleaned up and stored until it is time to re-plant them. Daffodil bulbs are usually okay left in the ground, where they will multiply over time.

If you are growing tomatoes in a greenhouse, keep picking the fruits regularly as they ripen, keep pinching out the side shoots as they appear and make sure the plants have adequate support. When they have set a maximum of six trusses, pinch out the tops. Under glass, feed the plants regularly with a proprietary tomato fertiliser such as Tomorite (other fertilisers are available). Be careful not to let the plants dry out, as this may cause the skins to split.

Another job that needs to be done this month is thinning apples. It may look promising having clusters of apples on your tree(s) but leaving them will result in a lot of small, tasteless fruits. Thinning them out will mean you will have larger, better tasting apples. With a narrow-pointed pair of snips (scissors will do the job just as well), reduce each cluster to one or two fruits. I know that this appears to be wasteful, but believe me, the remaining fruits will really thrive.

If you are growing raspberries, they will need pruning after they have finished cropping. Cut the canes which have fruited right down to ground level. You should be left with new healthy canes and these can be tied in ready for next season.

Once your soft fruit trees have finished cropping, these too can be pruned. These trees should never be pruned in winter, as this may well lead to an attack of silver leaf. Cut out any inward facing branches and trim the tree into shape, this is normally all that is needed at this time of year.

Now Dear Reader, let's talk about slugs and snails, the bane of the gardener's life. As you well know, I have as equable a temperament as most men, but show me a flower or vegetable bed which has been ravaged by these disgusting creatures and I turn into a Troll-like creature, stomping around and telling the world how I *'ate 'em wiv an 'atred wot wells up from the bottom of me 'eart'*. I genuinely cannot find any redeeming factors for these slimy invertebrates, other than they are part of the food chain. Well, now that I've got that off my chest, I will endeavour to give you one (yes, I know I'm spoiling you) of my little known but useful tips to keep them at bay.

Squares of green mineral roofing felt, the kind that you may well have on your shed roof, is a great way to ensure the slimy pests cannot reach your plants. Cut a hole in the centre of a 6" (15 centimetre) square of felt, large enough to go around the stem of the plant, then make a cut from the edge of the square to the whole, so that you can slip it around the stem like a collar. This should keep them at bay, as the rough surface hurts their soft underbellies and for some reason, they seem to hate the smell of the felt. If you feel more creative, you can make the central hole a bit larger than necessary and fill the extra area with sharp grit or crushed eggshells. That should keep the little beggars away!

Oh well, I guess that's another month gone. Enjoy the rest of the summer and do take some time to admire your handiwork. Until next time, "Happy Gardening"

Norman Elson

Henham Tennis Club News

Never has the phrase ‘the darling buds of May’ been more appropriate than this year. The countryside was “fresh with green leaves and colourful blossom falling as confetti”. Coupled with some welcome sunshine and blue skies the scene was set for the Tennis Club’s annual Open Day. The clubhouse was spruced up by Fiona, the bunting was up. A warm welcome awaited an encouraging turn out, both young and old, with committee members, established players and friends all mixing with potential new members. Particular thanks to Monica and Katie for their ceaseless efforts with the children and Brian for setting up the ball machine which was an instant success and a great way to sharpen up those reflexes. All in all, the afternoon was a resounding success as a typical relaxing May afternoon played out with tea and cakes, (thanks to all those who kindly did the baking), and social chit-chat coupled with the reassuring sound of racket meeting ball! One thing hasn’t been mentioned: the picture wouldn’t be complete without the barbecue, so sincere thanks to Simon for toiling over the coals and those popular sausages and burgers. A fun afternoon had been, to coin a phrase by Pop Larkin in ‘The Darling Buds of May’ “Perfick”.



Photos including Brian with the ball machine on Open Day

The Small Club’s League summer fixtures are now under way but now follows a summary of how our teams fared during the winter. I am indebted to the captains Monica Sutherland, Phil Holder and Charlotte Balls, for their input and, on behalf of the club, express our thanks for their time and effort on what can be

a thankless task in ensuring that Henham Tennis Club continues to participate in this league.

The first report is from Monica. *The winter 2022/23 season proved to be one of the most difficult seasons anyone can recall. A slightly delayed start didn't help as we lost most of November for scheduling matches, then we were hit by plunging temperatures at the beginning of December which meant matches were cancelled one by one. The weather continued to frustrate during January and February. In fact, by January the Mixed 1st had still not played any of its ten fixtures! Despite four walkovers due to weather conditions (each team receiving only four out of sixteen points) we managed to play six fixtures and come 2nd in the league tables, losing top spot to Dunmow by one point! The players who participated were: Phil Holder, Scott Reynolds, Isaac Wilson, Fiona Price, Monica Sutherland, Ali Maxwell, Katie Harris, Sally Robinson, Nora Murphy-Holder and Josh Steffen. Meanwhile the Ladies 1st struggled with availability and would not have survived the season without the support of three core players: Fiona Price, Gill Foster and Sally Robinson. I (Monica) was out of action for six weeks and I am grateful to Katie Harris and Charlotte Balls who covered the March fixtures. We have remained in the 1st division.*

Next up for her report on the Ladies 2nds is Charlotte Balls. *Despite several fixtures being rained/iced/etc off we did manage to play most of the matches. With a number of players who had never played league matches before we gained a lot of match experience and our results steadily improved during the season. I was particularly pleased with our efforts, as we were sometimes up against good opposition who had 1st division experience. As we grow in confidence I am sure we will be in with a shout of winning this division! The squad members were: Justine Bailey, Louisa Layer, Susie Dutton, Sue Stewart, Helen Hawker, Nora Murphy, Monica Gemmill, Lorna Yeadon, Vanessa Gibbons, Katie Nash and Charlotte Balls. The Ladies 2nds will stay in Division 3.*

Finally, this is Phil Holders report on the Men's 1st team. *The first six matches were frustratingly cancelled due to the weather. After one team dropped out of the Division we still managed to play seven matches. We were fortunate to have a big squad to call on. Playing during the season were: Phil Holder, Scott Reynolds, Matthew Robinson, Nicolas Mamier, Amrik Braico, Alex Layer, Sean Munday, Isaac Wilson, Louis Wilson, Shaun Hunt and Laurence Ward. The team came third in the 2nd division and will stay there next winter.*

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A sincere thank you to all the players who gave up their time to represent Henham! We look forward to hearing about our teams' exploits during the summer season when the glare of the sun should be the only handicap – let's hope it's not too hot! Playing team tennis is a great social activity and the matches are played in a friendly yet competitive spirit...and there is always the chat over tea and cakes to look forward to after the match! If you are new to the club and are interested in playing competitive tennis do get in touch with either Monica, Phil or Charlotte.

With Wimbledon just around the corner here is a short quiz to test your knowledge of these great Championships.

1. Prior to Andy Murray's success in 2013, who was the last British player to win the Men's Singles title at Wimbledon?
2. With which former Singles Champion did Jamie Murray win the Mixed Doubles title in 2017?
3. How many times did Tim Henman play in a Wimbledon semi-final?
4. What is the official name of Murray Mound (formerly Henman Hill)?
5. A tricky one to finish: What fruit is found on the Men's Singles trophy at Wimbledon?

Answers at the end of the report.

As I write this report participants are queuing up (almost) to play their matches in our own Championships which reach their conclusion on FINAL'S DAY: SATURDAY 8th JULY from 10am onwards. Do come along to watch some entertaining, even scintillating, tennis coupled with afternoon tea and cakes.

I wonder if the motto on the hoardings at the French Open will ring true at Henham: 'Victory belongs to the most tenacious.' Roland Garros.

John G Smith

Answers to Wimbledon Quiz:

1. Fred Perry who won three times in a row, the last of which came in 1936.
2. Martina Hingis. They beat Henri Kontinen and Heather Watson in the final.
3. Four: in 1998, 1999, 2001 & 2002.
4. Aorangi Terrace.
5. Pineapple. One theory for the fruit's appearance is that in the late 19th century pineapples were looked on as a rare and exclusive food.

Henham Village Shop Association Ltd

The 24th AGM of the shop company took place on 8th June in OSCA, attended by thirteen people.

Chairman's report

I am very happy to report an uneventful year. After the rollercoaster years around the pandemic, I think we can count the year ended 31st January 2023 as a successful return to the norm.

For the last two years turnover and profit has settled down to a constant level, slightly higher than pre-Covid levels. My first thank you is to Angela who has been a team member for nearly 18 months now and has done a super job. She is very pro-active and works really well with the volunteers. This has helped to take some of the load off Linda.

Because of the minimum order and delivery charges, we now have Bestway deliveries every two to three weeks instead of weekly, otherwise the delivery charges could be well over £1500 per annum. In between times we get some stock from Bookers as we cannot get our chiller and freezer items from Bestway. A big thank you to Linda and Richard who make these collections at a cost of less than £10 per trip, as well as doing so much in the shop. The daily bread collection continues; thanks to all those volunteers involved in the rota.

The Post Office is an invaluable asset to the village opening three mornings per week, and our thanks go to the Parish Council for their financial support. We must also thank Sheila for helping us in the shop when she is on duty in the Post Office.

Thanks to all the amazing volunteers who do their shift in the shop week after week. It is their continued commitment that allows us to carry on. We are incredibly fortunate to have a strong community and so many lovely villagers willing to give of their time. Everyone involved should be very proud.

I must mention Carol. The high level of turnover and use of credit cards has resulted in a lot of extra work for Carol, who continues to cope without complaint. I must also thank the committee for quietly working behind the scenes to implement ongoing improvements and keep things ticking over.

There will be challenges ahead. We have food inflation running at over 15% that can disguise a reduction in the sales volume and general inflation pushing up overheads. I feel confident that providing the village continues to support us, we can meet those challenges and the shop will continue to thrive.

Trevor Ellis-Callow, Chairman

Financial report

2022 was another good year for the shop. Turnover was stable at approximately £100,000, although this represents a fall in real terms with inflation remaining high. Slightly lower purchase costs combined with a small increase in interest rates saw profits rise to £3,674 from £2,888 last year. There was a small increase in the profit margin to 19% from 18% (versus the target of 14%).

Expenses were similar this year with the increase in wages offsetting the redundancy payment made to Graham last year.

The cost of the card machine was again approximately £800. This cost will be fully covered by a forthcoming investment of surplus funds with a building society, thanks to the recent increase in interest rates.

A new lock and keys, and a vacuum cleaner were purchased during the year.

We again thank Trevor Judd for all his help with the accounts, VAT, PAYE and general support!

Also, many thanks to Judy who took on responsibility for internet banking whilst I was on holiday.

Carole Turner
Treasurer

Stop press!

It is with sadness that we have learnt that the Thaxted bakery is closing for a month, due to illness and the retirement of the current owners. Happily, a new owner is in place. Negotiations are ongoing to try and maintain our commitment to bread and cake sales. We will keep you informed of progress.

District Councillor Report

It has been an incredibly busy month; we have been focussing on our administrative obligations.

Petrina is Leader of the Council, organising committee memberships and cabinet working groups and she has administrative obligations. She also attends training /information sessions with Bianca. Bianca's committee commitments this year will be scrutiny and a substitute for governance, audit and standards, alongside the usual council work, her role as Deputy Chair of Elsenham Parish Council



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and paid working, (they do say- if you want something done – ask a busy person)

Our Community Project Grant Scheme is open for new applications. This scheme is open to properly constituted voluntary organisations or similar bodies in Uttlesford. You can apply for a grant from a minimum of £100 up to a maximum of £3,500. www.uttlesford.gov.uk/community-project-grant

Our Gardening Competition for Tenants’ and Leaseholders is back! If you are proud of your garden, then why not enter our annual competition. Dust off your dibber and get ready to show us your petunias - our annual garden competition is back with £250 worth of prizes to be won.

www.uttlesford.gov.uk/garden-competition

Our Surgery in July will be Monday 17th July 6-7pm Orwell House Station Rd Elsenham CM22 6LA.

We are aware that the cost-of-living crisis is causing hardship to residents and many will be unable to improve their circumstances in the short term while inflation outstrips income. A quick reminder that a cost-of-living crisis fund has been set up for the 2023/2024 financial year to support Uttlesford residents who may be struggling to pay their Council Tax liability. This is available to **all** Council Tax Bands.

www.uttlesford.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support-fund

We have been asked to highlight awareness of rural properties being rented to set up cannabis farms. Please speak 100% **anonymously, about any property being used as a grow house or farm to cultivate cannabis. Anonymously on 0800 555111 or online Crimestoppers**

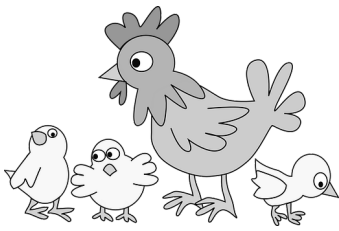
crimestoppers-uk.org/news-campaigns/campaigns/criminal-gangs-

We have £2,000 each to spend in our ward to help community projects so do think about whether we could help.

Love where we live.

Bianca Donald cllrdonald@uttlesford.gov.uk 07941880279

Petrina Lees cllrlees@uttlesford.gov.uk 07713074656



Daisy May's Farm

We are SO excited as once more our fabulous **woodland campsite** is **OPEN** and we are ready to receive guests! You can stay in the woodland area and get back in touch with nature or stay in our camper/caravan paddock ,where there is lots of space and lovely scenery. All of these options obviously include entry to the farm where you can meet our lovely animals and all their babies.....what a fabulous holiday and all for just £25 a night AND on your doorstep! Please message us through our Facebook page to book.

As if that wasn't enough, we still have babies of all sorts everywhere..... Chicks, ducklings and you can even cuddle the lambs and kid goats and, trust me, they don't come much cuter!

We have a fabulous safe area to play in, a stream to splash in, a woodland trail to explore, ice creams to be slurped and crafts to be created and more!

Entry is £5 (under 1's free) and it really is a fabulous day out for all the family.

We are open every day, but please always check our Facebook page just in case.

There really is so much to do and see at the farm and our animals just love seeing you all. So do be sure to come and see us over the summer. Can't wait to see you.

Hall Road, Elsenham, CM22 6DN



Henham Fun Run



Ethymia Ttoffali* is running. Are you joining her?
Henham 10k and 3k run. 1st and 2nd July 2023

We look forward to seeing you on the start line. Reserve your place now on <https://sites.google.com/view/Henham-10k>

If you prefer to support the school in a more sedate way then please consider being a marshal on the 2nd July. This involves standing at a designated spot on the course and guiding the runners along their route. To register your interest in becoming a marshal please contact June on alisonjunebrennan@gmail.com

***Ethymia is planning to run the course three times before the rest of us even get to the start line and will then join us for the last 10k. Please come out and give her a big cheer; she is raising money for Cancer Research by running a marathon.**

Please support her on the course and by going to her just giving page <https://gofund.me/3132e98b>

St Clare's Hospice Summer Fayre – 8th July!

Come along, celebrate the start of summer, and support your local hospice charity. Tell your friends and family – the St Clare Summer Fayre is an event not to be missed!

It's on Saturday 8th July at St Clare Hospice, CM17 9JX, from 11am – 4pm. With food and craft stalls, inflatables, shows throughout the day and games for the kids – there really is something for everyone!

Entry costs £3 per adult, kids under 16 go free! Well-behaved dogs on leads are welcome. For more information contact the fundraising team on 01279 773750 or visit stclarehospice.org.uk/st-clare-summer-fayre

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Henham Parish Council

(Edited minutes from 1st June, full minutes and the minutes from May can be found on the village website, www.henham.org)

Reports and Recommendations

Greens and Village Estate – Cllr. Baker:

Greens damage – Erosion – works are ongoing.

Construction damage by Hollybank – Cllr Lee is monitoring the situation and is in discussions with the contractor regarding a plan for the repairs.

Driveway – The owner of Hollybank has contacted the Chair requesting that a section of the driveway is bonded to allow for easy wheelchair passage, it would be a narrow strip and would not look different in appearance. Following a discussion it was agreed Cllr Lee would liaise with the owner.

Gravelling over and parking on Greens at Bell Cottage, High Street – Chair and Cllr Fisher to meet on site to review extent of proposed greens repair works.

Coronation commemoration – A generous resident who is very skilled at ironmongery has kindly offered to design and make a sculpture to celebrate the coronation. Cllrs have approved the design and Cllr Fisher will liaise with the resident.

Development at Saffron House – Cllr Fisher declared an interest and absented himself from any discussions. There was then a discussion regarding the owner of Saffron House's recent contact with the Chair with regard to developing the paddock behind the house.

Defibrillator – The Parish Council thanks the resident who has so kindly given up her time to maintain the defibrillator and thanks the new volunteers who are helping by taking on the responsibility.

Village ponds/woodland – The Parish Council will review the possibility of asking woodland organisations/charities to maintain the woodland on behalf of the Parish Council.

Village Hall – Update from Cllr Fisher who mooted an idea for the Parish Council to launch a community grant scheme, available for not-for-profit organisations/residents in order to support their use of the Village Hall. It was agreed that Cllr Fisher would research this further and provide a proposal for the next meeting.

Management of Pledgdon Green – Solicitors have now been instructed and have quoted £500-750 plus VAT.

Coronation Event – Total approx. net cost to Parish Council was £2,165 (nb total gross cost was approx. £3,700 less £900 grant from UDC which the Chair applied for and £635 refund from fete committee for gazebos and ice machine which are fete committee assets).

Gigaclear – Gigaclear have applied for road closures on Mill Road and Dark Lane 30/6/23. Chair is signing the Wayleave Agreement for greens access.

Parish Council is aware they would need to give careful consideration to the location of a large infrastructure box so that it is not an eyesore.

Finance

<u>Receipts</u>				
<u>From Whom</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>		
SOV 100 Club	March draw	£400.00		
SOV 100 Club	April draw	£400.00		
UDC	Coronation grant	£900.00		
<u>To Whom</u> (Invoice no.)	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Total</u>
BHIB Ltd (LCo00320)	Annual HPC insurance	£398.09	£0.0	£398.09
JRB Enterprise Ltd (25423)	Dog poo bags	£65.71	£13.14	£78.85
Ricki Shelsher (1069)	Village windows and signs cleaning	£50.00	£0.0	£50.00
SW Transport Planning Ltd (0108)	Bloor PINS further submission professional advice	£150.00	£30.00	£180.00
Castle Water (8988554)	Allotments water bill April to Sept 23	£301.84	£60.37	£362.21

2022-2023 Accounts – The clerk gave the Q4 Accounts for 22/23 to Cllr Fisher for review and approval; these have been approved.

VAT Reclaim – This was submitted by the Clerk on 25/05/23 for the amount of £22,667.11.

Signing of AGAR 2022-23 for Henham PC – The Year-End Accounts, produced in conjunction with the Parish Council’s internal auditor, together with the unsigned and undated S1 and signed and dated S2 of the Annual Return and the Internal Auditor Report have been distributed to councillors for their appraisal prior to this meeting. These accounts have been used to prepare the AGAR (annual return) prior to submission to external auditors. The steps below

need to be taken in the following order in order to comply with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

- (a) Annual Return Procedure Policy – the Parish Council approved the policy.
- (b) A review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control was carried out and the findings of the review was considered by the Parish Council.
- (c) It was resolved by the Parish Council that the Annual Governance Statement (S1) was approved, Cllr Fisher proposed the approval, Cllr LeCount seconded the proposal nem con.
- (d) The Accounting Statements (s2) (which has been dated and signed by the RFO prior to this meeting) were considered by the Parish Council as a whole.
- (e) It was resolved by the Parish Council that the Accounting Statement (S2) was approved, Cllr Fisher proposed the approval, Cllr LeCount seconded the proposal nem con.
- (f) The Chair signed and dated the Accounting Statements (S2). The Chair and Clerk signed and dated the Annual Governance Statement (S1).

The dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights are as follows – commencing on 5 June 2023 and ending on 14 July 2023. The Parish Council thanks our internal auditor for his work.

Planning and Developments

- **UTT/23/1319/HHF** - Section 73A Retrospective application for the reduction in ground level at the rear of the site and installation of sleeper retaining walls to rear and side boundaries. Proposed single storey outbuilding, part with pitched roof part with flat roof, to be used as a domestic garage, gym and home office ancillary to the main dwelling house - The Fuchsias Old Mead Lane - Cllr Franklin declared an interest and absented himself from all discussions. This will be called in by District Cllr Lees.
- **UTT/23/1228/HHF** – proposed two storey side extension and single storey rear extension, 4 Woodend Cottages Chickney Road. The planning sub-committee will lodge Parish Council comment as to size and scale.
- **UTT/23/1257/HHF** – proposed replacement roof, replacement fenestration and minor alterations to existing outbuilding Cedar Cottage. The planning sub-committee will lodge Parish Council objection.

Appeals: **APP/C1570/W/22/3311484 (UTT/22/0713/FUL)** - Halt Bungalow Wood End Green, proposed demolition of existing dwelling and erection of



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replacement dwelling, written representations by 7 June 2023. Clerk submitted HPC objection on 26/5/23.

Highways – Update

Old Mead Road-Old Mead Lane – (1) Nothing further to report other than Cllr Gooding to liaise with Cllr LeCount re flooding by Cott Moor.

Pledgdon Green Lane/Brick End Road. During the Hall Road road closure last week, there was extensive damage and traffic issues caused by vehicles using Pledgdon Road instead of the diversion route. Complaints and photos have been sent to County Cllr Gooding and requests made for the road to be blocked off during the road closure, although this did not occur. Cllr Gooding confirmed that as the works were carried out by Affinity Water, it was not the responsibility of Essex Highways (EH), but suggested that Cllr Rutterford could write to EH requesting that preventive action should be taken in the future.

Potholes –Some repairs on Mill Road have been carried out.

Correspondence

Received: resident requesting permission to temporarily park skip on Woodend Green

Local Plan –

Documents related to the local plan can be found at www.uttlesford.gov.uk/new-local-plan.

Chair advised UDC feedback on call for sites is due by late summer.

Henham SOV 100 Club Draw

May Draw - 160 Members

Cllr Petrina Lees conducted the May draw. She drew from a black bag containing all current members lottery balls. The winning numbers were:

1st Prize Number 10 (L Peake) £232

2nd Prize Number 160 (R Hunt) £112

3rd Prize Christmas Bonus Ball Accumulator £56 Cumulative total £336

Total funds received per draw were £800. Half will be paid in prizes plus the cumulative Christmas Bonus Ball with the balance of £400 paid to Henham Parish Council SOV Funds.

Date of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 6th July 7:30pm at OSCA. Everyone Welcome. There is no meeting in August.

Mareike Dacey, Clerk

Annual Parish Meeting

On Thursday 1st June the Parish Council (PC) held its Annual Meeting. The Chairman Nick Baker addressed the meeting with an update of activities.

I want to start by introducing our councillors seated here down the front. Our Parish Councillors are Simon Lee, Mark Fisher, Peter Franklin, Garry LeCount. Three of our councillors are absent, Jonathan Leach, Matt Francis and Zoe Rutterford. We also welcome our new District Councillors, Petrina Lees, who also leads the ruling party Residents 4 You, and Bianca Donald. We also welcome County Councillor Ray Gooding.

A main duty of the Council is setting, collecting, and managing the budgets; our receipts last year 22/23 were £68,605 and expenditure was £163,515. This overspend was due to the refurbishment of the Village Hall, which came to £105,224. The administration of this Parish Council budget is quite a demanding task, and we thank our clerk Mareike for her diligence in ensuring we follow governance rules and regulations, and Trevor Judd for preparing our accounts for audit.

The PCs invested assets at present total £1,022,451. The PC held the precept in 2022/3 making no increase at all. The PC understands that times are tough at present, and I think the freezing of the precept was a sensible step. Other notable everyday expenditure include grass cutting, tree maintenance, street furniture maintenance, war memorial garden, cemetery gardens, bus shelter maintenance and church cemetery maintenance and all the other assets that the Parish owns and maintains. We also manage the allotments, which are free to users if they are maintained properly.

The PC was very pleased to have contributed significantly to the refurbishment of the Village Hall. We would like to thank everyone who has volunteered over the past few years to help get us to this stage of the refurbishment and revitalisation of the Village Hall. We would like to thank Glenn Brennan for his early contribution to the project, Andy Eardley for bringing his expertise to delivering the building phase, Justin Rhodes as Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, and his role in securing valuable external grants, and the Village Hall Committee, all volunteers, working to help ensure a community hub for all. We also thank the contractors, who mostly came from the village, for their contribution. Lastly, I thank Mark Fisher who, as the PC councillor with the Village Hall responsibilities, has also taken a major role in seeing this ambitious project to a finish.

The other duties of the Council include liaison with the committees for the Village Hall, Shop, OSCA and the Church. The Parish Council is continuing to contribute the entire cost of the Village Post Office at £9,266 last year to ensure we keep our post office open. This PC is convinced that the Post Office and Village Shop are very important assets to our village and are determined to support it financially, as do many other of our residents support it with their time.

Five years ago, we introduced a new initiative aimed at stopping the disgusting dog fouling of our village greens. We distribute, free of charge, dog poo bags through the village shop. This year we have distributed 30,000 bags and, although we still get complaints about dog poo fouling the greens, we think the situation has improved. Without this initiative I think the problem would be much worse.

Another initiative which has continued this year, has been the Neighbourhood Speed Watch under the watchful eye of Jim Heywood and Simon Bambridge. The Parish Council has installed two speed cameras in Mill Road and Chickney Road. Speed Watch have also requested and received a new speed gun which enables enforcement action to be taken against speeding motorists. Now that the speed signs are up and running, we can measure their effectiveness. Our initial impression is, that by studying the data downloaded regularly in the cameras, we are making a difference. Speeding in the village is getting under better control. At present Cllr Peter Franklin is trying to get authority for a further speed camera in Old Mead Road, he is hitting some Essex County Council Highways barriers, but we will keep trying.

A further initiative has been the continuing agreement to share a Police Community Support Officer with Stansted Mountfitchet. We have been allocated 33% of the officer's time, which cost the Parish Council £2994 last year. 50% of the police officer's time is funded by Uttlesford District Council the other 50% funded by the two parishes. Essex Police are responsible for training and equipment. The Parish Council feels the reassurance of the presence of a police officer in the village is welcome. Our PCSO, who has joined us last year is Alex. He has already been very active in the village and works alongside village organisations, he is very approachable and would like to meet as many villagers as possible and discuss any areas of concern,

Another continuing initiative has been the updating and maintaining the Henham Village website. The website is being updated as we speak, under the watchful eye of our Clerk and Cllr Simon Lee. It is our aim that this becomes an interactive village resource for up-to-date information, events and sharing of all that is great in the village. The new website will also comply with the relevant

legal regulations. Along with Henham Facebook page the PC aims to use the website to communicate with the village.

Our clerk, Marieke deals with a plethora of emails and correspondence, all of which must be read in detail to ensure that any issues that impact upon Henham are recognised and dealt with. With planning issues Cllr Simon Lee heads a small subgroup that can comment and contribute to any decisions made by Uttlesford further down the line.

BT Open Reach has installed superfast broadband over the whole village. We all welcome the much better broadband. A new company Gigaclear is introducing ultrafast broadband to the village at the end of this year. This is an exciting development especially for residents running businesses or working from home. The PC will keep residents up to date with developments as they arise. The installation of the network will inevitably cause some disruption, but in our conversations with Gigaclear, we will aim to keep it to a minimum.

So, what at present are our concerns and issues? We have fought three large developments over the past years. The infamous Fairfield Development that we have fought against since 2007, and at one time reached 5200 houses between Elsenham and Henham, has concluded with the granting of 350 houses on the outskirts of Elsenham, east of the Crown pub wholly in Elsenham Parish and more recently a further 200 extra houses on Henham Parish land abutting this development making 550 in total. We fought against this extra 200 development to the very end and were bitterly disappointed when a Planning Inspector granted permission. The main obstacle to our objections was the UDC lack of a five-year housing supply and a Local Plan in Uttlesford.

A further development, which we fought and won at appeal, was 200 houses in Bedwell Road adjacent to Elsenham Station.

As you know, the third large development of 45 houses on land south of Vernon's Close ended in further disappointment. Having been unanimously refused by UDC Planning, the developer appealed against the decision and after a one-week hearing the appeal was allowed. Reading the lengthy Inspectors report the reader would be convinced the Inspector was going to refuse the appeal until the last page or two, when the failure of the five-year housing supply and lack of a local Plan, took precedent. We still await any progress on this development and hope to engage with the developer, once identified, to discuss issues.

One of the main duties of the Parish Council is to protect the Henham Conservation area.

The Parish Council will continue to oppose in-filling or developments onto plots in or near the conservation area of the village. The Conservation report completed in 2011 emphasises the importance of the open aspects and views through into the countryside in Henham. The sense of space together with our precious village greens are what makes Henham a great place to live. Your PC will fight tooth and nail to protect these features.

Fighting all these planning applications and contributing to the Local Plan is very time consuming and very expensive, but without our organisation and professional advice, and your support, both financially and your presence at hearings, we would already have had thousands of houses built between Elsenham and Henham, basically joining the two villages. We would also have had a Travellers site on the outskirts of the village and several unwelcome developments in the village itself. Your PC is not against sustainable development in the village, and we have already accepted in this plan period well over 100 houses including some affordable housing. On top of that we have the 200 houses on Henham Parish land abutting Elsenham. However, we will continue to fight against opportunistic development and developments that, in our judgement, spoil the beauty of the village. You can already see the traffic chaos in Stansted and there are another 1000 plus houses under construction. It is madness to construct so many houses without a proper supporting infrastructure. We have called on UDC to plan sensible settlements in the new Local Plan. Developments should be properly sustainable, with schools, shops, leisure, medical and other essential facilities built with the houses. A new community, not a rag bag of houses attached to an existing community.

As we move towards the third attempt to get a Local Plan in place at Uttlesford District Council we watch very carefully the intended housing sites in our parish. The “Call for Sites”, which is the process where anybody can submit a site for housing to be considered in the Local Plan, has a number in the parish which we consider unsuitable. We are waiting for the list of sites that UDC consider have merit and we will be entitled to comment as to suitability. This is expected to arrive late summer and will be another huge amount of work for the PC.

I can't finish this segment without commenting on Essex Highways. The PCs engagement with Essex Highways is abysmal, from their refusal to accept that Grove Hill, Lower Street and Chapel Hill in Stansted are full, and cannot accept more and more construction traffic and traffic from new houses in Elsenham and Henham.

It is also difficult to contain one's anger at the handling of the North Hall Road project.....to take 2 ½ years to repair this road was unbelievable. The state of

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the diversion through Patmore End was a disgrace. Your Council did everything within our power to speed this repair but all to no avail.

Fund raising is very important to fight these planning applications and I commend Cllr Mark Fisher for his monthly draw which raises money to fight these applications. This year it has raised £6450 and anyone who has not signed up for the village monthly draw please consider doing so.

Now let me spend a few moments talking about improving the fabric of the village. It is this PCs wish that Henham remains one of the most beautiful villages in the area.

Last year, with the help of a grant from Essex County Council Cllr Ray Gooding, we renovated the pond in Crow Street by School Lane, this work is still ongoing. We are grateful to Ray for his maintenance assistance, which this year was a new notice board in front of the village hall. We continue to maintain and improve our greens, our ponds, our street furniture and our trees, hedges, and paths. Our allotments are a pleasure to visit, we are full with twenty-two plots taken and one resident on the waiting list. I want to particularly commend Peter Smith and Chris Walker for their work on the allotment wooded area which they are turning into a natural bluebell wood with spring bulbs and seating. The continuing improvements to the allotments are a credit to them both.

We are constantly looking across the village to see any areas which need improving and as ever rely on residents' comments. Adjacent to the allotments is the cemetery which is administered on behalf of the PC by Linda Peake, Linda, we thank you for all of the tasks you do on behalf of the village.

Let me restate the council's policy on rights of access across our village greens. We will not allow any new right of access across our greens, and we are unlikely to allow any additional access across existing rights of access, save in the most exceptional circumstances, where we think an improvement takes place.

A couple of years ago we purchased the woodland opposite Hill Top Yard. This was purchased as the PC did not want another long and expensive planning application with the risk of a traveller's site. We are still considering the best way forward for this woodland to improve its natural diversity so watch this space.

I also wanted to mention the Kings Coronation Celebrations which followed on from the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations last year. I doubt that any village, town, or city enjoyed better organised events than the one we had. The PC has already thanked those residents, including Simon Bambridge and fete

committee, who worked so hard to make the event such a success, but our thanks also goes out to Cllrs Simon Lee, Mark Fisher and Peter Franklin for their roles in organising such a splendid occasions.

So, I hope I have painted a scene of a very busy industrious and, I hope successful Parish Council.

It remains for me to thank the Parish Councillors for their hard work in supporting the village. This has been a very busy period for the Parish Council. I think few residents would have any appreciation of the administration required to run a Parish Council and it gets more every year. I would like to thank all the councillors for their considerable efforts in giving up their time to make this village the great place to live in.

Lastly, I particularly want to thank our Clerk Mareike who does such a splendid job. Hardworking, always amenable, always helpful, we are very lucky to have her. We do have a progressive forward-thinking Parish Council and I believe that our village is in good shape and will get even better with our future plans.

Nick Baker

Stansted Hall & Elsenham Cricket Club

At last, the sun is shining! The first XI had their first league match cancelled, followed by a defeat from a strong Farnham team. Since then, three wins have elevated the team into fifth position in the HEBL Premier Division. The wins include beating last year's champions, Matching Green, and a successful run chase of 287 against Bishop's Stortford third XI. The second XI have had four good wins and are top of HEBL Division 3. All in all, a lot of runs being scored!

The junior section had four of the first five weeks cancelled due to the weather, but they are now under way. Plenty of matches have been played in all age groups at both of our grounds.

The club will be running a 'Summer Camp' during the summer holiday with the dates to be arranged.

Improvements to the pavilion have been completed and the new scoreboard is working well. Thanks to Mark West for time spent on the frame for the scoreboard.



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OPENING HOURS

Monday & Tuesday - closed

Wednesday and Thursday 12pm to 3pm and 5pm to 11pm

Friday & Saturday 12pm to 11pm

Sunday - 12pm to 7pm

FOOD SERVED

Wednesday to Saturday - 12pm to 2pm and 6pm to 9pm

Sunday - 12pm to 4pm

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Phone 01279 850347

For information about special events each month please see

website: www.thecockinnhenham.co.uk

Facebook page: The Cock Inn Public House, Henham

Instagram: cockinnathenham

REFUSE COLLECTION FOR JULY

Brown, black and green bin collections are made in most of Henham on Thursdays but there are a few areas where collections are made on Tuesdays.

BROWN BIN (kitchen leftovers)	collected every week
BLACK BIN (non-recyclables)	Thursday 6th, 20th
GREEN BIN (recyclables)	Thursday 13th, 27th
GREEN GARDEN WASTE	Thursday 13th, 27th

Village Shop & Post Office Opening Hours

Post Office: - Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9am to 12 noon

Shop: -

Monday to Friday 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 4.30pm

Saturday 9am to 1pm

Sunday 9.30am to 12.30pm

Copy Date

Carol Elson is the editor for August and contributions need to arrive by **12th July**. Please e-mail: - **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.

Advertising Rates

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, but we would invite large fundraising events to make a small donation to help with our printing costs.

Please contact Sheena Bigland on 01279 850373 for rates and further information.

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