

November Dragon



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Editorial

Here we are in November and the Christmas adverts are in full swing. The Henham Christmas Market is taking place on 10th of this month with the proceeds going to the Meningitis Research Foundation and Making Steps For Mason. I hope you can support this worthwhile event.

There has been quite a lot of discussion around the village, including the two letters below, about the renovations and extension at the church which have taken about ten years to come to fruition. The church is grade 1 listed and so many different departments are involved, including Historic England and Uttlesford District Council; an archeologist has been present during all the preparatory work. Derek Ward has written an interesting update on the renovations, including the discovery of an unknown tomb, see page 25.

The editor for the next Dragon is Carol Elson, please send your contributions by email to henhamdragon@hotmail.co.uk or contact one of the committee members by phone, our numbers are on the contents page. The deadline is 12th November.

Wendy Hogg

Letters

Dear Editor,

I am genuinely heartbroken to see what is happening at St Mary's Church.

Whilst I disagree with the PCC's vanity project that is the new extension to the church, I could have, had I been aware at the time, objected against the planning application. Despite having what I consider to be the most inept Conservation Department response to a Listed Building application, supposed due diligence has been carried out, and the planning application was approved. Don't get me started on the total lack of village consultation during the concept and design process!

What I cannot believe, nor forgive, is the decision to rip out the Victorian hand-carved pews from the heart of the church.

St Mary's is a Grade 1 listed building. Of the 400,000 or so listed buildings in England, only 2.5% are Grade 1, and these are deemed to be 'buildings of exceptional interest' according to Historic England. St Mary's is sited as a 13th and 14th century church that has escaped much later alteration (how ironic!).

I love St Mary's. I have known it well for the 50+ years that my family have been in the village. My Grandmother, Father and Sister are all buried there.

I love its simplicity, its purity, its serenity.

That is all being ruined by someone's (frankly criminal) idea to rip out the central pews and replace them with chairs.

Why?

If the pews were considered uncomfortable then cushions could have been provided, or the sermons could perhaps be more captivating – both would help take one's mind off one's posterior.

If communal gathering is required, is this not the main purpose of the new extension?

Why else would one rip out the pews, unless one has absolutely no understanding of history, architectural integrity, aesthetics, or perhaps more importantly, protecting a valuable heritage asset (protected through criminal law) for future generations.

Shame on you PCC, and your vainglorious ambitions

Nick Gowing
Address supplied.

Dear Editor,

I'm sorry, perhaps I have missed something? Why do we need a modern extension to the architecturally historical village church? Who approved the spending of these funds, and deemed it appropriate to spend such massive amounts during a cost-of-living crisis? When so many are struggling to pay their monthly bills. What about the church hall, OSCA, and newly refurbished village hall? Are they not more than adequate venues for a village of this size?

I was christened, married, and buried my mother in St Mary's, Henham. It was certainly more than adequate then, as it has been for 100s of years before that.

Tessa Pierre,
Address supplied.

Thank you!

The editorial team would like to thank Mr and Mrs Bowmar for their diligence in distributing the Magazine to residents of Chickney Road. They have done so without fail for a very long time and we wish them well in their much-deserved retirement.

This is also an opportunity to thank all our distributors who do a magnificent job for us.

Jim and Ros Heywood

U3A

A new Line Dancing group is now up and running. To have some fun turn up to St John's Hall on Thursdays 1.30pm to 2.15pm, except for the 3rd Thursday of the month when the u3a have its monthly meeting. The cost is £5 per lesson and it's suitable for all abilities. If you would like to know more please contact Barbara - bafidell@gmail.com A new Rumikub (playing cards) group has also just started. Please look online to find out all the details or ask at the next meeting.

An enthusiastic number of the Gardening Group visited the Tudor Garden at Cressing Temple in September. They were given a short introduction to the history of the garden by the Head Gardener, Rebecca. She explained how, in the Tudor period, a garden was required to be a source of medicinal products as well as a source of food. The current design is a faithful recreation, due in part to surviving features, and the plants used are ones that have been grown since the late Mediaeval and Tudor periods. It is hoped that we can return there when the gardens are at their peak, in May and June. If we have enough people, we will be able to enjoy a full guided tour with detailed explanations of the plants and their uses in a Tudor household.

The u3a movement itself has planted almost 10,000 trees as part of our u3a Anniversary Woodland. The trees, although still small, are growing well, having survived the hottest and driest summer in South Wales in modern history!

Our speaker at the November 16th meeting will be Ray Clark, giving a witty and humorous talk entitled 'I Could Say Something Brilliant at Any Moment'. He will tell us how his career started in commercial radio in the U.K. and the U.S.A.

Eileen Quinn, email. Stanstedu3a@gmail.com www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted



Henham Charity Christmas Market

All proceeds from the day will be going towards Meningitis
Research Foundation and Making Steps For Mason

FRIDAY 10th NOVEMBER

1pm to 8pm

Village Hall - CM22 6AT
OSCA Hall - CM22 6AS

*£2 entry fee will get you into both halls.
Children free*

*Please bring cash for refreshments, home-made cakes tombola and a
raffle.*

**Guest appearance by the Elsenham Community Choir and
Woodwind of Stortford**

*Thank you to Intercounty, Vision Fitness, Prontaprint and Optoelectronics for
your support.*

School News

I hope you all enjoyed our harvest festival. It was a shame we could not go to the church this year but hope to revert to taking the children back there once the renovation works have taken place, as it is so special to take the children to the church.

I personally really enjoyed the fact that we were able to bring the community into school and I am so chuffed we could get parents and children in the same hall. I hope to continue to offer these opportunities throughout the year with our next Christmas Carol Service planned for December.

As the evenings get darker and we approach the autumn and winter months, we have got a lot of festive events upcoming at school.

Our Halloween disco took place at the end of the half term, children enjoyed dressing up and dancing with their friends.

In November we have our formal parent's consultation evenings; a chance for all the parents to have a 1:1 meeting with their child's teacher and to find out how they have settled into their new year group.

The book fair will also be visiting during November where children will have a chance to buy the latest books at a discounted price. We have our Christmas Bazaar coming up in December.

Most excitingly, this month we have a very special visitor coming to Henham and Ugley Primary School - a Team GB olympic/paralympic athlete!

Children have been asked to collect sponsorship money to complete a sporting challenge at school that they will complete alongside the athlete. The athlete will then deliver an inspiring assembly to the children. The money raised gets reinvested into school sports equipment which we desperately need- so please donate as much as you can.

If a child raises £5, they will earn themselves a sports wrist band. If they raise £15, they will win two wristbands one of which will be signed by the GB athlete. If any child raises £30 on their own, they will win the two wristbands and a signed certificate from the GB athlete.

Thank you for reading and I am always available on the phone or via email if you wish to contact me directly.

Mr Benjamin Davey, Headteacher

Henham and Ugley Community Partnership

Dear Villagers,

The Henham and Ugley Community Partnership is still looking for support across many activities in school. We are looking for volunteers and patrons to offer their time and skills in the following areas:

Governors and Patrons	Computing	Maintenance and DIY	Resources and Skills
<p>We are recruiting two new Governors ideally with skills in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Health & Safety -Social Media -Website Development <p style="text-align: center;">*</p> <p>We are also recruiting Patrons that can help us promote and generate interest from external sources to attract funding and resources.</p>	<p>Volunteers with technology experience and skills that can help us get the computer suite to be a useable space and increase our digital offer.</p>	<p>Volunteers to continue to keep the estate looking smart, plus we have many projects to complete throughout the school.</p>	<p>We are looking for Volunteers to help in the classroom setting to assist with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -reading -general class support - games to help spelling, maths and reading -art <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Help required Monday - Friday</i></p>

If you have interest in any of the above areas, would like to find out more about what we need, talk about the skills you would like to offer or would like to understand more about what is involved in being a Governor or a Patron, we would love to hear from you.

If you want to support our lovely village school, please reach out to us at volunteer@henhamugley.essex.sch.uk.

Mary Compton & Jo Goldsmith
 Co-Chairs, Henham and Ugley Primary and Nursery School

Christmas Afternoon Tea
90 minutes Bottomless Prosecco
with live music by 'Me and Him'

**9 Dec 23 Henham Village
Hall**

3pm

**£35 per
person**

**Contact Jane
07752
321094**



Scouts

As we approach the Autumn half term, I've had a chance to reflect on the fact that our regular Scouting update hasn't been as regular as we would have liked. The main reasons being twofold: our Leadership team have all been busy providing an exciting, action-packed programme for over 100 Scouters from our villages, and the other reason being the age-old issue of limited volunteer numbers to share the workload.

The past Scouting year has not been without its challenges. We have unfortunately had to close one of our Beaver Colonies due to limited leader numbers, and we were made homeless at short notice early in 2023, but we are now enjoying settling into our new home at Ugley Village Hall.

Our Beavers' programme has been very successful, with hikes, crafts, cooking and sports being key elements, along with their long-awaited camp, which manifested itself as the Spring '23 Fairies and Leprechauns Sleepover!

Our Cubs have taken part in activities such as pioneering, cooking, DIY, hiking, sciences, archery, backwoods cooking, litter picking, theatre visits and fencing, and were also able to take part in JOTI (Jamboree on the Internet), County Mega Camp and the Embers Virtual Camp.

Scouts have been pushing the boundaries of adventurous activities, including open-water swimming, bridge and catapult building, moonlight canoeing, an Air Traffic Control Tower tour and bell ringing. Scouts have also taken part in County Backpack Camp at Thriftwood and our summer Lake District Camp where activities included water sports on Lake Windemere, hiking up the Old Man of Coniston and Ghyll Scrambling. Two of our Scouts were also selected to take part in the International Scout Jamboree this year as part of the UK contingent who travelled to Jersey.

We have been very lucky this past year to have had a number of Scouts moving up to volunteer as Young Leaders with our younger Sections. A key strategy we targeted over six years ago was to have a Scout Troop feeding into the Young Leader programme to bring through the next generation of adult leaders. This project is now starting to bear fruit, but we still need more adult volunteers to support both the activities of the sections as well as the administration and running of the Group. We continue to appeal to adults in our community to consider volunteering with us to ensure as many young people as possible can take part in Scouting activities. We are also currently looking for a new Group Secretary, so if you or someone you know may be interested in helping us, please get in touch.

Rose Cottage

Available for rent - £1,300 per month (£300 per week)



Historic characterful detached village cottage with stunning views - Circa 400 years old. The cottage comprises kitchen, breakfast room, dining room, lounge, utility room and bathroom to ground floor. Three double bedrooms are situated on the first floor.

All rooms have stunning period features and views of the $\frac{3}{4}$ acre garden, laid to lawn, with rose and flower beds set behind historic hedgerows.



This is an ideal family home set in the heart of the village, where peace, quiet and village life can truly be appreciated. To discuss further please contact me directly.

James George, 07498351080, jamesgeorgebusiness@gmail.com



Daisy May's Farm

Well, what a fantastic year this has been for us and the best bit has been having all our lovely visitors come and see us on the farm!

We are starting to get very excited about Christmas and really hope you will be joining us for the festivities this year – there will be so much to do. As it is such a busy time for Mrs Claus, we are giving her the festive season off this year but fear not..... the **Santa Sleigh Train** will be in action driven by **Santa and his helpers**, so do NOT miss this!!

Make sure you keep an eye on our Facebook page, so you are up to date with all our plans and activities and don't miss out on all the fun!

Our animals are always so happy to see you and we still have some small piglets that are so cute, but very cheeky! At the moment there are sheep, goats, ponies, all sorts of chickens, ducks, turkeys, pheasants and don't forget our rhea (similar to an ostrich), rabbits and guinea pigs and they **all** love to see our visitors!

These events are a vital lifeline for us to raise enough funds to feed and look after our animals throughout the winter and we can only do this with your help and support.

Many thanks.
Hall Road, Elsenham, CM22 6DN



In the Garden

Hello again Dear Reader, time marches on and here we are in November, although at the time of writing this, it looks and feels more like spring than autumn. So much for those who are in denial over global warming!

Onwards and upwards though, still plenty to do in the garden. November is primarily a time for tidying and clearing in preparation for the inevitability of winter. Keep raking up the fallen leaves to prevent moss forming on your lawn. If you have a pond, it is important to try and keep leaves out of it, as they can release harmful agents as they decay. A good way of doing this is to cover the pond with garden netting. This can be regularly removed, cleared and then repositioned. This will also provide protection against the ever-voracious herons.

If you have any digging to do, such as renovating flower beds or lawns, now is the time to do it. At this time of year rough digging is all that is needed, as the frosts will break down any large lumps.

Hopefully, you will still have some colour in your garden. Asters (Michaelmas Daisies) come into their own in autumn, as do ornamental grasses. When choosing plants, I often try to choose those which are still decorative, even after they have finished flowering. Good examples of these are Phloxes, Alliums, Sedums, Eryngiums and Hydrangeas.

Continue cutting down herbaceous perennials which have finished, with the exception of Chrysanthemums, Euphorbia and Sedums. These are best left alone until spring, as the dead foliage provides some protection against winter frosts. Try to leave some foliage as shelter for wildlife if you can.

November is the best month for planting new trees and shrubs. The ground is usually reasonably soft and if they are planted now, they have the whole of the winter to establish a good root system. Remember to firmly stake new trees as a precaution against winter winds. When staking a tree, rather than putting the stake in vertically, hammer it in at an angle of about 45 degrees, with the top pointing towards the direction of the prevailing wind. This will give much better stability, even in very high winds.

There is just about time to plant any late Tulip bulbs. Bulbs planted after November will still probably flower, but the flowers will be much smaller. If you have bulbs of any type left over, you can keep these for a long time in a refrigerator. Put them in net bags and they should last until next spring. The same goes for seeds. As you cut down the plants in the borders, save some seeds

from your favourites, dry them out thoroughly, then place them in paper bags or envelopes in the fridge.

Now is the time to plant up tubs and baskets for winter colour. Most nurseries will have a selection of small perennials and even small shrubs which can be used alongside the usual favourites like Pansies, Violas, Bellis and Wallflowers. I use Skimmia, Hellebore, Heuchera, Trailing Ivy, Geum and quite a few others. One advantage of using this type of plant is that they can be planted into the garden later on. Under plant these with bulbs of short-stemmed spring flowers like Tête a Tête Daffodils, Greigii Tulips and Dwarf Iris Reticulata. This brings me nicely in to another of my “useful” tips. The planting up of winter tubs seems to send an immediate signal to the dreaded squirrels saying, “lunch is served”. Yes, I know they look cute, but to me they are simply tree rats with large appetites. I have found an interesting way to help keep them away from my newly planted pots. At home we use quite a lot of coffee bags (same as tea bags but containing coffee). I save these after use and dry them out, then sprinkle the contents over the tops of the pots. So far it appears to be working.

If you have bird feeders in your garden, make sure you keep them topped up now, so that the birds know that there is food there. In severe weather, birds use most of their energy looking for food. If they know there is a regular supply close to hand, it improves their chances of surviving harsh winters.

Keep a close eye on the weather, as frosts can come in quite suddenly and you need to be prepared to bring in tender plants such as pelargoniums and fuchsias to the greenhouse to overwinter.

Climbing roses should be cut back now, leaving two or three buds on the side shoots. Tie in the main stems to keep the plant stable. Summer flowering shrubs like Lavatera, Cotinus and Buddleia should have their foliage reduced by about a third. Try to avoid pruning if there is a very sharp frost forecast.

I’m sure everyone is looking forward to next year’s open gardens event. It’s nice to be able to go around looking at other gardens in the village. It’s amazing how much inspiration you can get by doing this, especially as there is such a variety in both size and style, so put Sunday 9th June in your diaries.

It looks like that’s about it for this month Dear Reader, so stay well and I wish you “Happy Gardening!”

Norman Elson

News From the Gardens of Easton Lodge

By November we have reached the end of the season and closed the gates to visitors – and hopefully by the time you read this, we will have completed a lovely and memorable season. In September we had a fine day for our Open Day and welcomed regular visitors and new ones to experience the joys of apples, apple juice, jams and honey. Local concert band, Take Note, played a wonderful range of music and a lot of homemade cake was eaten! We have lined up October to be a fun finale – with a Halloween themed dog day on our last Sunday Open Day and the local Enchanted Parties group are also having a Halloween event for children at the Gardens.

When the Gates have shut, we turn our thoughts to major projects for the closed season. Last year we put in a new path from the Italian garden to the walled kitchen garden. Visitors have really appreciated it and it is already well bedded in. This year we are planning to complete the project, so the path starts from the car park and we can make the entrance area more welcoming. Once it is complete the path will help visitors see the glory of the Gardens even when the grass is very wet in spring and autumn months.

Through October the Gardens look lovely in their autumn colours, but that means that in November we need a big leaf clearance effort. It is a group activity, both in raking up the leaves and in squishing them into the composting bay. By the end of the year the bay is full to overflowing, but it is amazing how quickly the leaves rot down and become usable mulch. We use mulch for protecting the dahlia border and asparagus beds over winter and for keeping moisture in the ground around newly planted trees and shrubs, so we need a lot!



You can see more about what we are up to through the closed season by following us on Facebook or Instagram; looking at the Garden News on our website; or signing up for our e-newsletter through our website:

www.eastonlodge.co.uk

Jill Goldsmith

UGLEY WI

Our September meeting was a very 'therapeutic' one. The speaker was Helen Beard who is a volunteer with the "Pets as Therapy" charity. She came along to inform and entertain us, accompanied by her two adorable and friendly black Labradors - 'Sapphire' and 'Steele'

Helen explained that "Pets as Therapy" is a national charity founded in 1983, initially as a pilot scheme based in Derbyshire. It proved so successful that it was rolled out nationally just six months later.

She told us that "Pets as Therapy" provides a visiting service in hospitals, hospices, nursing and care homes and special needs schools. In fact there is a brilliant scheme in which a P.A.T dog, together with their owner and teacher, is read to by a child. Research has shown that children become less stressed, less self-conscious and more confident as the dogs are non-judgemental and encourage the child to enjoy reading out loud as if they are going to read to their new friend.

All breeds of cats and dogs can potentially be part of the P.A.T team, subject to a temperament assessment. For further details about this brilliant charity contact them on www.petsastherapy.org or phone them on 01865 671440.

Our December meeting will be open to our members only, but details of the January 2024 meeting will appear in the next issue.

Andrea Fitt

01279 815922.



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Henham Tennis Club News

There are only 74 days until Christmas as I write! But let us not even think about that as temperatures continue to defy the odds and the sun still shines. The tennis season should really be drawing to a close. Autumn is officially upon us but in truth tennis can be played throughout the year so, whatever you do, keep that racket handy!

A few weeks ago there was a good turnout for ‘an end of season’ Fun Tournament. I think I counted nineteen players who enjoyed some fun-filled on-court exchanges, despite a rain interruption! The break for rain, in fact, enabled a little more social chit chat...coupled with a cup of tea...and a slice (or two) of cake! Sincere thanks to Fiona, Nora, Charlotte and Monica who made the cakes: “the yummy caterers” as someone commented. Special thanks also to Monica for all the organising of the tennis.

My wife and I recently spent a lovely couple of weeks in Mallorca. While we were there, we visited the island’s second largest city, Manacor; not a place that would normally be on most people’s itinerary. In fact, it has a pleasant ambience, interesting buildings and, my reason for going, is the birth place and home of Rafael Nadal. Rafa was instrumental in the construction of the Rafael Nadal International Tennis Centre which attracts talented youngsters from all over the world. The Centre also acts as the headquarters of the Rafael Nadal Foundation which supports underprivileged children and encourages sports as a way to promote self-esteem and confidence. The principal reason for our visit was to see his unbelievable array of trophies in the museum and to enjoy the Rafa Nadal Experience, where visitors have the chance to compete in next generation virtual simulators, having fun and learning the values of sport. The museum represents the values of its ambassador Rafa, both in the world of sport and in life itself. Values such as effort, self-improvement, companionship, commitment, and sportsmanship are the pillars of the man himself. He was crowned as “Sportsman of the Year” by the Laureus World Sports Academy in 2011 and 2021, and he has won the Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship award five times.

Before entering the museum, we were escorted into the Interactive Room where we were offered the chance to put our own skills to the test on the museums’ simulators. Here there were certainly thrills to be had in an innovative and technological environment. I tried my hand (inevitably) at virtual tennis (great fun and certainly challenging), but other sports were also included: driving a Formula 1 racing car, rowing, mountain biking, and skiing which appealed to my wife...a thrill a minute (or second!) at this one and plenty of shrieks on the downhill run from others who joined us!

The museum show cases Rafa's trophies including his phenomenal record at Roland Garros where he has won the French Open a staggering fourteen times, the first of which was in 2002 and his latest in 2022! The complex has a super cafeteria and restaurant (aptly named Roland Garros of course). We savoured a delightful light lunch there sat on the balcony with stunning views of the Rafa Nadal Academy including the courts themselves. Sadly, I can only assume that Rafa was on holiday the day we turned up or else the message hadn't reached him that we were visiting!

The complex also has many more facilities: a superb gym, indoor and outdoor swimming pools plus a spa and beauty centre. What more could you ask for! I can only say what a great way to spend the day; whether you are a Nadal fan or not and you are holidaying in Mallorca then you can do a lot worse than spend a day in Manacor and head to Rafa's Academy and I promise that the experience will live long in the memory.



The Academy & Courts



Nadal's Statue



Federer & Nadal's Rackets



Not all trophies are cups!

Did I mention Christmas earlier? Well, the Tennis Club Christmas Dinner is now scheduled for SATURDAY 2nd DECEMBER at THE COCK. Further details will shortly follow. Looking further ahead into the New Year, The Tennis Club Quiz Night will take place on Saturday 3rd February 2024 and there is also

the popular wine tasting evening to look forward to as well. Date to be confirmed.

To conclude, an update on Rafa. After a year's absence from the tennis scene, it now looks as though he intends to return to the Grand Slams in time for the Australian Open in January. No doubt he will rightly be welcomed with open arms. It seems totally appropriate therefore for Rafa to have the last word with a quote which could well serve as an early New Year's Resolution:

“Work hard, have fun and make it happen.”

John G Smith

The Hundred Parishes Society

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Before the 15th century, people attending a church service would stand or kneel. When benches or pews were introduced, they were sometimes decorated by skilled craftsmen. In particular, the top of the ends of some pews were carved with figures called finials or poppyheads.



The word poppyhead comes from Latin via Old French meaning the poop or figurehead of a ship. Poppyheads can be found in churches across the country and they are particularly prevalent in East Anglia. The Hundred Parishes has some fascinating examples.

The carved figures can represent almost anything. Some are of flowers or fruit or animals. Mythical creatures or demons were introduced to remind parishioners that if they led a sinful life they would go to hell. Saints and angels however meant that if you lived a good life you would go to heaven.

You will also find carved creatures depicting saints. In St. Mary's, Hatfield Broad Oak, 300-year-old poppyheads symbolize saints, with a lion for Mark, a bull for Luke and an eagle for John, while Matthew is represented by a 'divine man'.

Ickleton's parish church has some fine examples of medieval carved poppyheads. One shows St. Michael weighing souls of the dead and another features a dragon-like creature.



In Wendens Ambo parish church you will find a fearsome-looking beast which you may meet if your soul goes to hell!



Linton's church has a wide range of subjects including scribes resting their books, one on the back of an angel and another on a dragon.

When you are out and about, I encourage you to seek out these wonderful examples of ancient craftsmanship. Please let us know of others on either the feedback page on our website, www.hundredparishes.org.uk or share a photo with the Hundred Parishes Group on Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/562396892237665

Ken McDonald, Secretary

Aid for Romania

We are now collecting for the April lorry where some of the goods will be 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 items are sold through our charity shop out there, with proceeds helping the same poor sections of the population with health, education and improving their terrible housing conditions.

We are now wanting **SUMMER** clothes and shoes for adults and **children** (under 3yrs 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 (incl 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 (must be 2ft 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) and corner display units. Irons and boards as well as air driers for laundry. Kitchen items (crockery, cutlery, utensils, pots/pans – especially big sizes such as 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!). Cash donations for the cost of the lorry as it now costs more to send since we must also now clear customs in Rotterdam.

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

Phone box Library

Since the phone box in Crow Street was decommissioned, it has been used as a library, overseen by Stephanie Honour. It is stocked entirely by donations which can be left at 22 Vernons Close. The library has a good choice of fiction and childrens books. Stocks have recently become quite low, and Stephanie would love donations of books, adult or childrens and preferably paperbacks but not reference books. Thank you in advance and to Stephanie for the wonderful job she does keeping the library organised.

Village Diary

Regular Clubs and Meetings in the Village

Mondays

9.30 - 11.30	am	Dinky Dragons (term time only)	Village Hall
10.00 - 12.00	am	Tennis, Ladies Rusty Racquets	Henham Courts
3.15 - 4.45	pm	Junior Tennis	Henham Courts
6.45 - 8.00	pm	Springbok Classes	HUSCH
7.00 - 8.00	pm	Yoga	Village Hall
7.00 - 9.00	pm	Table Tennis Club	OSCA

Tuesdays

9.15 - 11.15	am	Badminton Club	HUSCH
5.15 - 6.15	pm	Beavers (term time)	Ugley Village Hall
5.30 - 6.15	pm	Street & Com Dance (8-10 yrs)	OSCA
6.30 - 7.45	pm	Cubs (term time)	Ugley Village Hall
6.15 - 7.20	pm	Street & Com Dance (11+yrs)	OSCA
7.20 - 8.20	pm	Adult Dance	OSCA

Wednesdays

3.30 - 5.00	pm	Junior Tennis	Henham Courts
5.45 - 6.45	pm	Beavers (term time only)	Ugley Village Hall
7.00 - 8.45	pm	Scouts (term time only)	Ugley Village Hall
7.30 - 9.00	pm	Badminton Club	HUSCH

Thursdays

9.00 - 11.00	am	Pilates	OSCA
10.30 - 11.30	am	Little Fishes (term time)	Church Hall
1.45 - 2.45	pm	Tots/Preschool Tennis	Henham Courts
3.30 - 4.30	pm	Junior Tennis	Henham Courts
5.30 - 6.15	pm	Karate Beginners- Green	Village Hall
6.00 - 7.15	Pm	Cubs (term time)	Ugley Village Hall
6.15 - 7.00	Pm	Karate Intermediate +	Village Hall
7.45 - 9.00	pm	Bell Ringing Practice	Henham Church

Fridays

9.00 - 10.30	am	Ladies Tennis Morning	Henham Courts
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Saturdays

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

Sundays

2.00 - 4.00	pm	Tennis Ladder (matches permitting)	Henham Courts
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Classes at Vision Fitness Gym can be found on their website visionfitnesshenham.co.uk.

Church Services

Sunday 5th November

10:15 All Together All Age Service,
Elsenham Village Hall

18:00 Sunday@6, HUSCH

Sunday 12th November:

Remembrance Sunday

08:45 Prayer Book Morning Prayer
Elsenham Church

10:00 Morning Service, Ugley
Church

10:15 Morning Service,
Elsenham Village Hall

10:45 Remembrance Service at
Henham War Memorial

18:00 Sunday@6, HUSCH

Sunday 19th November

08:45 Prayer Book Morning Prayer
Elsenham Church

10:00 Prayer Book Communion
Ugley Church

10:15 Morning Service
Elsenham Village Hall

18:00 Sunday@6, HUSCH

Sunday 26th November

08:45 Prayer Book Communion
Elsenham Church

10:00 Morning Service, Ugley
Church

10:15 Communion Service,
Elsenham Village Hall

18:00 Sunday@6, HUSCH

Acts of Remembrance

Saturday 11th November, 10.45am
Elsenham Memorial Gardens
followed by refreshments at the
Memorial Hall.

Sunday 12th November, 10:45am
Henham War Memorial followed by
refreshments at OSCA.

Other regular events

SUNDAYS:

**Elsenham & Henham Sunday Club/
Explorers (Reception-Y5)**

(Y1-Y6) Old Franks, Elsenham
10.15am Sundays: 12th, 19th & 26th

Pathfinders (Y6-Y9)

**OSCA, Henham 6.00pm - leave
from service to meet in The Church
Hall, Henham.** Sundays: 5th, 12th 19th
& 26th

Crammin' (Y10-Y13)

**OSCA, Henham 6.00pm followed
by 7.00pm at OSCA Library,
Henham** Sundays: 5th, 12th, 19th &
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, 13th, 20th & 27th

Christian Play (Y1-Y2)

Rowan House, Elsenham 3.15pm
Tuesdays: 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th

Little Fishes Pre-School Group

Church Hall, Henham 10.30am
Thursday: 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th

Little Fishes Pre-School Group

Elsenham Memorial Hall 10.00am
Fridays: 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th

Church Lunch Club

Elsenham Memorial Hall 12.30pm
Fridays: (2nd & 4th Friday of the
month): 10th & 24th

HEU Churches invite you



LADIES' CHRISTMAS



PUDDING EVENING

30TH NOVEMBER

OSCA, HENHAM

7:30 FOR 7:45PM

Delicious desserts, cheese, wine, Christmas things to make
and the chance to hear why Christmas is such a surprise.

To reserve a space or a table
please contact
sandrajturner@hotmail.com

Church News

Reverend Louis Wilson Writes



On Saturday 28 October the winner of the 10th Rugby World Cup will have been decided. The tournament started way back on 8 September, and whether it's the Ryder Cup, the FA Cup or the Rugby World Cup, it is the nature of things that there can only be one winner (and it's not usually England).

But it is possible, even among the players themselves, to have a different perspective. Michael Jones played 55 times for the All Blacks despite refusing to play on Sundays. He was once asked about being a Christian in such an aggressive sport where tackles are hard and tough. He replied: 'Better to give than to receive!'

But he also said: 'Although I am honoured to represent New Zealand on the rugby pitch, my first allegiance is definitely to my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. When you stop playing rugby people easily forget you; one thing for which I would like to be remembered is as a person who put God before rugby.'

More recently, another player with the same perspective was Euan Murray. When he retired in 2015, he was Scotland's most capped tighthead prop forward.

Although brought up going to church, he ran away from God pretty fast once he got to university where he trained as a vet. The turning point came in September 2005 when he was knocked unconscious in a game against Munster. His head snapped back in collision with another player's knee. Some thought he was dead, but he slowly recovered.

He began reflecting on his life – his rotten, drink-filled body and extravagant lifestyle. Remembering what he had learned in church and what his mother had taught him from the Bible, he became desperate for forgiveness. Finally, he came to realise that God loved him, that Jesus died for his sin but that now he needed to come and submit to Jesus' rule in everything, including rugby.

I once heard him explain Christianity using a mug of tea and a glass of pure water: 'This is the tea, all dirty and horrible: this is me, yeah?' Then pointing to the water, he says: 'That's Jesus – pure. But he has taken the filth upon himself and before God Jesus says, 'Punish me for their sins.' And look, he has given me the perfect goodness of Jesus. He has declared me innocent. I'm ashamed of the things I've done. But I'm thankful I have a Saviour. He saved me from that lifestyle. He's given me a new life.'

Lots of us love sport, and most of us love winning: so how helpful to be reminded that for those who are in Christ the outcome of a rugby match or any match, however disappointing, has no effect on unchanging eternal realities - *God made him (Christ) who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5: 21).*

With best wishes, Louis

From The Parish Registers

Funeral:

- A graveside service on 9th October 2023 at Elsenham Cemetery, Peter Fitch, aged 88 years, formerly of Park Road, Elsenham.

Burial of Ashes:

- On Thursday 12th October 2023 in Henham Churchyard, Eleanor and William King.

Church Contact Details

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 website	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.

Sunday @ 6

**Ever wanted to belong to something big?
Curious to see what church is like?**



Come along to **HUSCH at 6pm on Sunday November 5th** to see.

Sunday @ 6 is our informal, lively evening meeting- for all ages and especially teens.

We have now outgrown OSCA, so from Sunday November 5th we are moving to HUSCH for our evening meetings.

Everyone is very welcome- whatever your age, whether you believe or not!

See website for more details www.heuchurch.co.uk

The Christmas Choir is Back!

The Christmas Choir is being formed again for our services of Carols by Candlelight. Join us to sing the traditional carols telling the story of the birth of the Christ Child:



DATES OF SERVICES:

Sunday 10th December, 4 pm at St Mary's, Elsenham
Sunday 17th December, 4 pm at St Peter's, Ugley
Sunday 24th December, 7 pm at the School Hall in Henham

DATES OF REHEARSALS:

Friday 10th November, 7.30 pm at St Mary's, Elsenham
Friday 17th November, 7.30 pm at St Peter's, Ugley
Friday 24th November, 7.30 pm at St Mary's, Elsenham
Friday 1st December, 7.30 pm at St Peter's, Ugley
Friday 8th December, 7.30 pm at St Mary's, Elsenham
Friday 22nd December at 7.30 pm in Henham (tbc)

Choir members old and new from any of our three parishes are most welcome.

If you have any questions, contact Maxine Mott, 01279 812516 or motts@grahammott.plus.com



ALSA WOOD FARM
CHRISTMAS TREES
alsawoodfarm.co.uk

OPEN FROM
THURSDAY 23RD NOVEMBER
Every day except Wednesday
★ **OPEN 9AM - 4PM** ★



UGLEY UGLEY GREEN
B1383
WALPOLE MEADOWS
HIGH LANE
STANSTED
WE ARE HERE
ALSA STREET

FRESH, LOCALLY GROWN TREES
Choose and Cut, Ready Cut, Wreaths

Alsa Wood, off Alsa Street, Stansted CM24 8SX
alsawoodfarm@gmail.com

Fascinating discovery at St Mary's Church Henham

As the work progresses on the reordering and extension of our village church and encouraged by the interest and support we have experienced, I thought a brief update would be of interest to Dragon readers.

As many of you will know from previous Dragon articles, this project has been over ten years in the planning, and every step has received approval from the PCC, Church of England, Uttlesford, English Heritage, Society for the protection of ancient buildings and many other stakeholders. The entire project is under the strict oversight of the consulting archaeologists who are under the direction of Essex County Council. It is through the presence of these onsite experts that we have uncovered the roof of a vaulted tomb, which has been identified as the grave of Reverend Wasey Sterry, who died aged 44 in 1779.

The excavation of the extension has now been completed and, through careful and painstaking work by the archaeologists, working with our architects and structural engineers, the individual pile heads have been hand dug to ensure any disturbance of the tomb and any other skeletons from hundreds of years ago has been avoided.

Turning to the inside of the Church, we were delighted that we had such a positive response to our rehousing of the Victorian pews, which will remain in homes throughout the village and in the school. The box pews which are of more historic significance will be removed for safe keeping and as many as possible will be reinstalled in the side aisles of the church once the work is completed.

We will continue to report on interesting findings and are always delighted to discuss any aspects of the project with villagers interested in this latest development of the church, which as previously reported in the Dragon, has undergone regular updating over the centuries.

Derek Ward

Afternoon Teas

There isn't an afternoon tea in November, but it will return to OSCA on 2nd December at the usual time of 2 - 4pm for a Christmas themed event.

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2023



My team of dedicated Poppy Appeal collectors will be out from 28th October until 11th November.

It's a great opportunity to rid yourselves of all that loose change and those low value notes, (higher valued versions greatly accepted too)

Remember that it is for a great cause!
Thank you, Simon Bambridge

Remembrance Day

There will be the regular two minutes Remembrance Silence on Saturday 11th November, at the memorial 10.45 am.



Speedwatch

Following complaints about speeding through the village on Banger Racing Sundays, our village Speedwatch team with our PCSO Alex and police support, organised a speed watch on a recent Sunday morning.

The team identified thirty-eight offenders travelling at speeds up to 53 mph in the 30-mph limit. The presence of the police service meant that numerous fines, points and tickets were issued. Well done to our volunteers on a great result. They will be repeating the Sunday speed watch!

Nick Baker

Henham Parish Council

(Edited minutes from 5th October 2023)

Reports and Recommendations

Greens and Village Estate – Cllr. Baker:

Greens damage – Construction damage by Hollybank – Cllr Lee is monitoring the situation and is in discussions with the contractor regarding the repairs. There have been issues colour matching the shingle with the resin on the driveway, Clerk to find out if other companies offer a different shade of shingle. Failing that, the shingle might have to be mixed, to ensure a better colour match.

Tree Inspection – Report awaited. Cllrs have agreed nem con that the pond tree work should go ahead with a quote for £3,500 plus VAT from our contractor.

Church works - Update from Cllr Lee. A site meeting with the developer and Cllr Lee was held on 26/9/23. There will be less plant placed on the greens and not within 7-10 metre of any trees. Developer to provide HPC with documents to satisfy the Parish Council's requirement that the works are complying with our own insurance.

Bench - The bench in Mill Road by School Lane has been vandalised. The bench end has been kicked off. An unknown resident has attempted a repair, but it is inadequate. The Parish Council have now commissioned a professional repair and the bench has been restored to good condition.

Village Hall – General – update by Cllr Fisher. Clerk has paid the second instalment of the HPC grant (£2500) to the village hall. **Solicitors** - have been instructed to review the ownership and responsibility for the Village Hall as the existing documentation is 100 years old and needs updating. Chair to chase.

PCSO – The PCSO will be available to discuss any resident concerns in the village shop between 10am-1am on the following dates: November 6 and 20 and December 11. Everyone welcome.

Speedwatch – Nothing to report other than residents have been complaining about speeding through the village on Banger Racing days. The owners are keen to liaise with the Speedwatch team to resolve this issue. A note will go in the Dragon.

Website – The new website is up and running <https://henham-pc.gov.uk> . The Parish Council would encourage residents to provide the Clerk with any additional information they would like to see on the new website e.g. details of clubs/societies, photos etc. Cllr Francis suggested holding a photograph competition of scenic views from the village and will put an article in the

Dragon with details. The Clerk has now set each Cllr up with a new gov.org email address, each Cllr to decide how they wish to access their emails, those requiring IT assistance to advise Clerk who will ask our IT company to assist. Following a discussion, it was agreed that Cllrs would try out the new email system before deciding on a policy for email use at the next meeting.

Airport Parking – Cllrs LeCount and Franklin will be attending a UDC meeting on 2/11/23 to discuss the problem of airport parking in our area.

D Day on 6th June 2024 celebrations – Chair to establish if any resident wishes to organise a village event around this date.

UDC budget consultation – The Clerk has previously circulated an email from UDC regarding a consultation on what its spending priorities should be for 24/25. Cllrs did not have any views.

Finance

<u>Receipts</u>				
<u>From Whom</u>	<u>Description</u>			<u>Amount</u>
SOV 100	July, August and September draws @£400 each			£1200.00
<u>Payments</u>				
<u>To Whom</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Total</u>
M Dacey	September salary	£462.30	£0.0	£462.30
Netwise Training Ltd	Flexmail upgrade for Cllr Emails	£60.71	£12.14	£72.85
Rural Community Council of Essex	Annual membership fee	£60.50	£12.10	£72.60
Paul Mower	Village gardening, bus shelter and war memorial	£380.00	£0.0	£380.00
Pellys Solicitors Ltd	Legal fees re Bell Cottage	£500.00	£100.00	£600.00
Henham Village Hall	2 nd Tranche annual grant	£2,500.00	£0.0	£2,500.00
PA Knott	Grass cut 8/9, 22/9	£910.00	£0.0	£910.00

Ricki Shelsher	Village cleaning windows and signs	£50.00	£0.0	£50.00
BIT solutions Limited	IT services for Clerk's gov.uk email	£82.50	£16.50	£99.00
JRB Enterprise Ltd (Dog poo bags	£66.64	£13.33	£79.97
M Dacey	Refund for 75 x stamps	£65.00	£0.0	£65.00

Treasury Management Investment Policy and Strategy 2023/24 – Cllr Fisher- update Cllr Fisher has been researching the best interest paying accounts which comply with our investment policy and will be continuing with this ongoing review.

2023-2024 Accounts – Q1 Accounts for 23/24 have been submitted by the Clerk to Cllr Fisher for review and approval.

Planning and Developments –

UTT/23/0713/OP - Outline Planning Application, With All Matters Reserved Except Scale and Access, for the erection of up to seven dwellings and associated work, Land West of Old Mead Road – nothing to report.

UTT/23/1732/FUL – proposed change of use of paddock to residential and construction of three no. residential dwellings, Tudor Hall Pledgdon Green – nothing to report.

UTT/23/1382/FUL – proposed erection of a new detached four bedroom dwelling, Four Winds Old Mead Lane – Cllr Franklin has withdrawn from meetings regarding this application on grounds of personal interest – nothing to report

UTT/23/2268/DFO – proposed details following outline application

UTT/21/0247/OP (allowed on appeal reference APP/C1570/W/22/3300023) for the demolition of two existing buildings and erection of three new buildings, together with creation of a Craft Hub and re-formation of existing parking areas with associated landscaping - details of appearance and landscaping – The Rise, Brick End- It was agreed that the sub planning committee would submit an objection.

UTT/23/2299/HHF – proposed three bay cartlodge extension to existing garage with storage above, Poplar Hall Church End – it was agreed that the sub planning committee would submit a comment.

UTT/23/2348/HHF & UTT/23/2349/LB – proposed pool upgrade and replacement outbuilding, Mondis Cottage Crow Street – it was agreed that the sub planning committee would submit a comment.

UTT/23/2316/CLP proposed Certificate of Lawfulness for an outbuilding in the rear garden of The Fuchsias, Old Mead Lane. Cllr Franklin declared an interest and absented himself from all discussions. It was agreed that the sub planning committee would submit a letter to Planning at UDC to reject the application for Certificate of Lawfulness.

Developments: Mill Road Development: The Chair wrote to UDC planning on 11/1/22 requesting information regarding the S106 Agreement and will continue to ensure that the Parish Council is kept informed on matters relating to the development. The Parish Council met with the developers Bellway Homes on 5th October to discuss areas of concern. The timetable for the development is scheduled to start in the Autumn 2024. There will be opportunities for residents to view the plans and comment as they develop.

Bloor – UTT/23/2063/DFO – proposed approval of reserved matters (comprising landscaping, layout, scale and appearance) pursuant to outline approval S62A/2022/0012 (UTT/22/2760/PINS) for the development of 200 residential dwellings along with landscaping, internal roads, public open space and associated infrastructure works, Land East Of Station Road – Parish Council comments submitted on 14/09/23. Cllr Franklin attended a meeting on 4 October 2023 with Bloor and Elsenham Parish Council. The main points from the meeting are as follows:

Phase 1 – 350 Units

Built 30-40 units

Occupied 12 units

Build rate 8 per month

Housing association deal signed up for affordable homes, contribution to “Elsenham News” £300 p.a. for two years, possibly to be extended. Not enough to meet existing revenue shortfall and finance a further 550 copies for the new residents. 30mph speed limit in Henham Rd to be established mid-October 2023
Bus contribution to Essex CC £1.5M for an inadequate service under threat of removal. Cycle and pedestrian exit to the west will be onto Old Mead Road between the car park and level crossing, not Station Road as has always been previously stated.

Phase 2 – 200 Units

Bloor have not yet purchased the land; they will not do so until reserved matters are approved i.e. current application. Start date on site anticipated after 2025. Foul sewage is inadequate to accommodate this development (Thames Water) Bloor are relying on Thames Waters’ legal obligation to provide sufficient new pipes etc. before they are needed. Bloor are confident their surface water drainage scheme will be adequate. S106 provides £78,872 for Elsenham surgery, NHS say it needs £258,400 to provide increased facilities for new residents, this impacts all existing residents if not resolved. Bloor rely on legal commitment to S106 which cannot be varied or funds within the existing amount reallocated. Bloor to investigate the discrepancy with UDC Planning.

Highways – Update

OMR-OML –Nothing to report other than Cllr Franklin will liaise with County Cllr Gooding regarding concerns with flooding along OMR due to the new development.

Toot Toot bridge – Cllr Franklin reported to County Cllr Gooding on 30/12/22 the lack of road markings or warnings at the bridge of “single track only” or any form of priority and requested this is resolved by Essex Highways as a matter of urgency, in order to avoid more accidents. County Cllr Gooding to check this is on Highways Panel, as there is confusion with a different request for the Little Henham bridge to have signage.

Residents are encouraged to also report any matters to Essex Highways direct via the Essex Highways web site www.essex.gov.uk/highways (details also on the Henham Website), as the more people who complain regarding Highways matters the more likely something will get done. Residents are encouraged to report unsafe or dangerous parking in our village to: swilliams@uttlesford.gov.uk Stansted Airport Limited operates a Freephone number for reporting suspected on-street airport related car parking. The Freephone number is: 0800 7312385.

Governance – HPC Grant Award Policy – Cllr Fisher previously circulated a draft policy document covering HPC providing grants. The Clerk has chased EALC for their legal advice and they have now confirmed the Parish Council may not provide any grants for the school as it does not have the statutory powers to fund educational establishments.

Local Plan – The draft Local Plan has now been published on the UDC website and documents related to the local plan can be found at: www.uttlesford.gov.uk/new-local-plan. Revised timetable as follows:

Draft Plan (Regulation 18) Consultation:	Autumn 2023
Publication Plan (Regulation 19) Consultation:	Summer 2024
Plan Submission:	End of 2024
Plan Examination:	During 2025
Plan Adoption:	Approximately 2 nd Quarter 2026*

*the timing of the Examination is in the hands of the Planning Inspector (s), but the average Local Plan examination is 18 months (based on 300 Local

Plan Examination) for relatively good plans with no significant issues identified.

The Chair provided an update. The draft Local Plan shows 6076 additional homes to be built within the plan period 2021-2041. Great Dunmow allocated 869 homes, Saffron Waldon 1280, Stansted Mountfitchet 390, Newport 412, Takeley 1689 and Thaxted 489. The larger villages have allocations of about 100 each. Elsenham has a nil allocation as it already has 1017 homes with planning permission waiting to be built.

Henham has been allocated 170 homes but 58 of these have already been given planning permission including the 45 south of Vernons Close. This leaves 112 to be built. HOWEVER, the draft Local Plan does not allocate the 200 homes with planning permission in Henham Parish as part of the Bloor Estate. The Chair will write to the UDC Director of Planning pointing out this error and ask for the allocations to be revisited.

Henham SOV 100 Club draw –

September Draw

Mrs S Ward conducted the draw. She drew from a black bag containing all current members lottery balls. The winning numbers were:

1st Prize Number 48 (M Dacey) £232

2nd Prize Number 134 (A & K Eardley) £112

3rd Prize Christmas Bonus Ball Accumulator £56 Cumulative total £560

Total funds received 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 2nd November October 7:30pm at OSCA. Everyone Welcome.

Mareike Dacey, Clerk

To report noisy aircraft at Stansted airport ring 0844 335 1803 or email stanstednoiseline@stanstedairport.com

Alternately fill in the contact form at stanstedairportwatch.com

VILLAGE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS - WE KNOW THERE ARE PLENTY OF YOU OUT THERE WHO ENJOY PHOTOGRAPHY AS THE RESULTS HAVE BEEN SHARED AND SEEN ON SOCIAL MEDIA SITES

HENHAM PARISH COUNCIL INVITE YOU TO SEND IN YOUR BEST PHOTO OF HENHAM IN ALL ITS GLORY SO WE CAN DISPLAY THESE ON OUR NEW WEBSITE:

<https://henham-pc.gov.uk>

THE TOP THREE ENTRIES WILL ALL RECEIVE A PRIZE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL – THERE WILL BE ONE WINNER CHOSEN FROM EACH OF THESE THREE CATEGORIES:

- AGES 4-11
- AGES 12-18
- AGE 18 AND ABOVE

CRITERIA:

ALL PHOTOS MUST HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY THE PERSON ENTERING THE PHOTO.

PHOTOS MUST BE OF HENHAM, BUT NO PEOPLE OR DOMESTIC ANIMALS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN ANY SUBMISSIONS.

THE THEME IS “GLORIOUS HENHAM THROUGHOUT THE SEASONS”

ONLY ONE ENTRY PER PERSON. PHOTOS IN JPEG FORMAT ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 30TH 2023. PLEASE SEND YOUR ENTRY TO THE CLERK, STATING YOUR NAME AND AGE AND CONTACT NUMBER: clerk@henham-pc.gov.uk

HPC WILL DECIDE THE WINNING ENTRIES AT OUR 7TH DECEMBER MEETING. CHAIR’S DECISION IS FINAL. BY ENTERING THE PHOTOGRAPHER IS GIVING PERMISSION FOR THEIR PHOTO TO BE DISPLAYED ON THE HENHAM WEBSITE.

GOOD LUCK!

District Council Report

Where do we get our money from?

Central government funding used to be the biggest single source of money for many councils, including Uttlesford.

For the current financial year 2023/24 the total cost of providing council services is budgeted at £19,251,000. This is the net cost after considering fees for services such as planning, licensing, and car park income.

Council tax income for the year is forecast to be £6,694,000, representing 35% of the net cost of services. The remaining cost is funded through a mixture of business rates, government grants, commercial investments and reserves set aside in previous years.

Increasing cost pressures, and real-term reductions in government funding, have significantly increased the financial pressures on the council in recent years. This means that we need to ensure we remain efficient while continuing to provide the same high quality services residents expect.

Please do complete the consultation to help us decide on the priorities for the budget for April 2024 to March 2025. www.uttlesford.gov.uk – budget consultation. If you don't want to respond online, paper copies of the questionnaire are available by calling 01799 510510.

Only a small part of the council tax you pay goes to us. Uttlesford District Council currently keeps £171.61 a year of the average £2,044.67 paid in council tax by an Uttlesford household, based on a Band D property in 2023/24. The rest goes to: Essex County Council, the Essex Police Fire and Crime Commissioner, and Parish and Town Councils.

We deliver several statutory services. These are services that we have to provide by law.

- Environmental health and licensing costs about £32.49 per household per year
- Housing and homelessness costs about £14.28 per household per year
- Planning and building control costs about £107.51 per household per year
- Refuse and recycling collection costs about £57.94 per household per year,
- Street cleansing costs about £18.48 per household per year

Revenues and benefits costs about £49.80 per household per year and includes

services we choose to provide but do not have a legal responsibility to do so such as

- Maintaining amenity areas, such as grass cutting and general maintenance of various areas of council-owned land costs about £6.19 per household per year. (This does not include council housing or sheltered accommodation)
- Community safety activities to support the work of the Community Safety Partnership with the police and others costs about £11.00 per household per year.
- Economic development costs about £14.10 per household per year
- Partnerships and communities costs about £12.79 per household per year
- Running Saffron Walden Museum costs about £11.02 per year
- Climate change activities cost about £11.63 a year

The council will accept responses via email, online or paper forms up to and including Sunday, November 5th. We know this is a quick turnaround but do please respond. It is important to have your say.

A decision on whether the Local Plan will be out for consultation will be debated on October 30th and, if agreed, the consultation will start. It is very important that as many residents as possible respond to the consultation, please be prepared. If agreed, a leaflet will be delivered to every household.

We still have some Ward Initiative funds available.

Our Surgery this month is Thursday Nov 9th 6.00 pm Orwell House, Station Rd Elsenham

Bianca Donald cldrdonald@uttlesford.gov.uk 07941880297

Petrina Lees cldrlees@uttlesford.gov.uk 07713074656

Stansted Airport Watch

If you feel that there are more Stansted night flights than ever, you'd be right. Stansted Airport Watch (SAW) has finally been able to establish what's been happening. Stansted is allowed a maximum of 13,700 flights a year during the 6½-hour core night period from 11.30pm to 6.00am. That, incidentally, is more than twice the number allowed at Heathrow, so local residents in this part of the world are entitled to feel they have drawn the short straw. And that's not the whole story.

The annual limit of 13,700 night flights is divided into a summer limit of 8,100 and a winter limit of 5,600. The summer period coincides with British Summer Time, and normally lasts for thirty one weeks, from the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October.

The numbers for this summer are not yet available, but SAW has been able to establish that Stansted handled 10,509 night flights last summer, compared to the statutory limit of 8,100. However, Stansted management insist that they have not broken the rules. This is all made possible by a clever three-card trick. Here's how it works.

Step 1 – The night flights legislation (which applies to Heathrow and Gatwick as well as Stansted) allows up to 10% of the previous winter's allowance (if the allowance has not been fully used) to be carried forward to the following summer. That added 560 flights to Stansted's summer 2022 allowance, increasing it to 8,660 night flights.

Step 2 – The legislation also allows an airport to overshoot it's allowance by up to 10% and carry this forward by reducing the allowance for the next winter period. That added another 810 flights to Stansted's summer 2022 allowance, increasing it to 9,470.

Step 3 – Finally, the Secretary of State allows Stansted management to use their own discretion to disregard certain night flights. These are known as dispensations and they are mostly granted when an aircraft which was scheduled to arrive or depart before 11.30pm, actually arrives or departs after 11.30pm, thereby becoming a night flight. In the 2022 summer period, Stansted management granted a total of 1,201 dispensations.

Hey Presto! The combined effect of steps 1, 2 and 3 enabled Stansted to handle over 10,500 night flights last summer without breaching the statutory limit of 8,100.

SAW was only able to obtain this information by submitting a series of requests to the Department for Transport under the Freedom of Information Act, by pressing Stansted Airport management to explain the apparent disparity in the number of night flights, and also by writing directly to the Secretary of State asking for an explanation.

SAW has also been able to obtain comparative information for Heathrow and Gatwick which shows that they are far less liberal in granting dispensations. Compared to the 1,201 dispensations granted at Stansted last summer, Gatwick granted 576 dispensations and Heathrow granted just 415. This is despite the fact that Stansted is by far the smallest of London's

three main airports.

The vast majority of dispensations granted by Stansted management were Ryanair flights and were categorised as being delays due to bad weather (mainly “thunderstorms”) and Air Traffic Control problems.

However, this begs the question as to why Stansted flights should be so much more prone to thunderstorms and Air Traffic Control problems compared to Heathrow and Gatwick?

SAW is still waiting for either the Secretary of State or Stansted management, or both, to answer this question. Meanwhile many local residents may feel that it’s time to stop Stansted management marking their own homework.

Better still, it’s time to dispense with dispensations.



SAVE THE DATE!

Golf World Stansted

ELSENHAM CHRISTMAS MARKET

25th November 2023
at Golf World Stansted 2pm -6pm

Sign up via the
Elsenham Christmas Market Facebook page or
Elsenham Community Association website or at
www.waytoomanybricks.co.uk

Raising money for the Elsenham Community

Golf World Stansted, Hall Road, Elsenham Essex CM22 6FL
01279 812 865 | accounts@golfworldstansted.co.uk

Elsenham Farmers Market

The next market will be our **Christmas Farmers Market** on **SATURDAY 2nd DECEMBER**, at the Village Hall (next to the school). Please note that it will be at a **DIFFERENT TIME – from 4-6pm**.

2023 Village Calendar

November

Thursday 2 nd	Parish Council Meeting	OSCA 7.30pm
Monday 6 th	Beat Surgery	Village Shop, 10-11am
Thursday 9 th	District Council Surgery	Orwell House 6pm
Friday 10 th	Henham Christmas Market	OSCA, Village Hall 1-8pm
Saturday 18 th	Jumble Sale	Village Hall 2 -4pm
Monday 20 th	Beat Surgery	Village Shop, 10-11am
Saturday 25 th	Elsenham Christmas Market	Golf World Stansted 2-6pm
Thursday 30 th	Pudding Club	OSCA 7.30 for 7.45pm

December

Saturday 2 nd	Afternoon Teas	OSCA, 2-4pm
Saturday 2 nd	Tennis Club Christmas Dinner	The Cock
Saturday 9 th	Bottomless Brunch/ Afternoon Tea	Village Hall 3pm
Monday 11 th	Beat Surgery	Village Shop, 10-11am

February

Saturday 3 rd	Book Sale	OSCA
Saturday 3 rd	Tennis Club Quiz Night	

June

Sunday 9th Open Gardens

Please email henhamdragon@gmail.com if you would like your event included.

Contacts for Hall Bookings

Church Hall	Isobel Brooks	01279 850354
OSCA	Judy Hughes	07752 292479 or 01279 850948
Village Hall	Elaine Randall	01279 851893 or email henhamvillagehall@btinternet.com
HUSCH	Please email admin@henhamugley.essex.sch.uk to book or in term time, phone the school office 01279 850213	

REFUSE COLLECTION FOR NOVEMBER

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 9th, 23rd
GREEN BIN (recyclables)	Thursday 2nd, 16th, 30th
GREEN GARDEN WASTE	Thursday 2nd, 16th, 30th

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 December and contributions need to arrive by **12th November**. 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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