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# December Dragon



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## Editorial

I am delighted to announce that the Dragon has been nominated for an Uttlesford Community Award! The committee would like to thank the Parish Council for our nomination, and we hope that the Dragon will continue to be produced for many years to come. Which brings me nicely onto my next subject, annual advertising. The Dragon relies entirely on revenue from advertising to pay for printing costs. Although our printers have kept their costs low over the past few years, they do need to raise their prices quite significantly next year. If you think you might be interested in taking out some annual advertising and supporting your local magazine, please contact Sheena Bigland on 850373 to discuss rates. Our annual advertising runs from April to March. Alternately, we are always happy to consider ad hoc adverts if space is available.

Sadly, we have just received the news that one of our long-standing distributors, Daphne Thorne, has died. Daphne always looked forward to receiving her copy and our sincere condolences go to her family.

The deadline for January's Dragon is a little earlier, **9<sup>th</sup> December**, as our printers close down for Christmas. Please send your articles to Pushpa Mistry at [henhamdragon@hotmail.com](mailto:henhamdragon@hotmail.com)

That just leaves me to wish you all a very Happy Christmas!  
Wendy Hogg

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## 2022/23 Village Calendar

### December

Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Parish Council Meeting	OSCA 7.30pm
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Afternoon Teas	OSCA 2-4pm
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Tennis Club Christmas Social	The Cock
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Tennis Club Tinsel Tournament	Courts 11am-2pm

### January

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>                      Tennis Club Quiz                      OSCA

### February

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>                      OSCA Book Sale                      OSCA 10am – 4pm

### April

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>                      Tennis Club Pick and Mix Finals                      Henham Courts

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## School News

We are now moving swiftly through the autumn term with Early Years and Key Stage One busy getting ready for their nativity performances at the end of this term. I look forward to sharing more with you about this next month.



Year 3 impressed us all with their Egyptian museum, inviting parents in to view their exhibits! They also set up the classroom with different interactive activities they had completed; all this with very little adult support (on purpose!) They were fantastic at explaining their museum to parents, well done Year 3!

While the sun was still shining our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes participated in a 'Teddy Run' event on our field. They participated in a variety of games and activities and had a wonderful time! Many thanks to Lacey, Lyra, Stan and Toby in Year 6 who assisted and supported the children with great leadership and enthusiasm.



If your child was born during the period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019, I am sure you are busy thinking about your primary school choices for the academic year 2023/24.

I am now able to invite parents in during the school day, as well as after school to come and see our wonderful school; as always, I am offering individual tours of the school.

If you would like a visit, I would love to show you around - please contact Mrs Hipperson or Mrs Nicholls (01279 850213) in the school office who will be happy to book a convenient time for you.

Until next time, take care.  
Kim Hall, Headteacher

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## News from the Gardens of Easton Lodge



After a wet and warm October the Gardens have recovered a bit from the dry summer, but it is now very difficult to guess how any month is going to pan out. What we do know is that Christmas falls in December and so our volunteers will get a welcome break from gardening and Gary, our volunteer who provides talks about the Gardens, will let his laptop cool down! We will all get right back into action in January. The talks programme is filling up, but still has spaces. If you think one of your local groups would welcome a talk, contact Gary through the form on our website or by emailing [groupvisits@eastonlodge.co.uk](mailto:groupvisits@eastonlodge.co.uk).

Last December, after we had tidied up all the leaves and trimmed a few trees, we had lots of new trees to plant that had been donated to us. After such a difficult summer, this year our winter focus is more likely to be on care and maintenance: lots of mulching to look after the plants and new trees that have made it through the year and work on our infrastructure too.

By the end of December, we will be starting to think about snowdrops! We have set the dates for two Snowdrop Sunday Open Days, on 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> February and two Snowdrop Thursdays, on 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> February. As for this year, our Open Sundays should be bigger affairs with access to the Gardens of Warwick House, as well as “our” part of the Gardens and a full catering offer, including savoury rolls. Snowdrop Thursdays are restricted to “our” side and we will

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provide drinks and homemade cakes. This year we only managed two of the four days, so we hope to improve on that record in 2023! Details will go onto our website in due course, but why not save the dates?

So, wishing you all the best for a happy festive season. And, if you are beginning to think about your new year's resolutions, maybe you might like to consider joining us as a volunteer gardener, baker or front of house person? Or perhaps as a Trustee? We are always happy to add to our happy team!

Jill Goldsmith

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## OSCA News

### OSCA Quiz Night

A huge thank you to David Morson who was our excellent Quiz Master this year. It was a big challenge to fill the shoes of Ted Wilshire, our Quiz Master for many, many years, which David rose to magnificently. It was a great evening, everyone had lots of fun and there were many compliments on the excellent ham, cheese and pate ploughman's which was served.

Thank you to everyone who came and supported us and gave so generously to the raffle, we made an incredible £958 for the OSCA funds.

We were very sorry we could not accommodate everyone who wanted to join us this year, as you know we are limited for space. Hopefully we will see you next year.

Many thanks to all.  
Carol Eaton

### Contacts for Hall Bookings

Church Hall Isobel Brooks 01279 850354

OSCA Judy Hughes 07752 292479 or 01279 850948

Village Hall Jenny Kodesh 07976 791642 or 850610

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# The Hundred Parishes Society

[www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk)

Before the middle of the twentieth century most people did not have watches; they relied on public clocks which could be seen at railway stations, post offices and other public buildings - and on church towers. This reminds me of the lines written in 1912 by the homesick poet, Rupert Brooke:

*“Stands the church clock at ten to three  
And is there honey still for tea?”*

The Hundred Parishes has a variety of interesting church clocks. In Furneux Pelham, St Mary’s clock is topped by Old Father Time and the words “Time Flies, Mind Your Business”. One wonders what prompted those words to be included.



The church at High Wych was built in 1861 to the design of local architect George Edward Pritchett. Its clock is almost as wide as the thin flintstone tower on which it is mounted.



The bell tower at Sheering has two clock faces

which were installed in the 1940s to remember those who served in the War. The north-facing one tells us to “Work and Pray” whilst the west-facing proclaims, “Today Is Yours”.

Hinxton possibly has our oldest church clock, believed to date from 1700 AD, albeit extensively renovated in 1809 when a new face was fitted.

Artist Eric Ravilious lived in Great Bardfield and his wood engraving of the church of St Mary the Virgin clearly shows the enormous clock that was added to commemorate the coronation of King George V in 1912. One assumes the residents of Great Bardfield are never late for work or church. The engraving has been adopted as the logo of The Hundred Parishes.

I hope you will keep an eye open for the variety of clocks to be found around the Hundred Parishes.

The Hundred Parishes Society’s trustees join me in wishing you a Merry Christmas.

Ken McDonald, Secretary.

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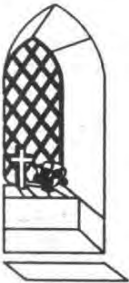
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In September members of Stansted and Thorley u3a groups spent a most enjoyable and interesting week in the northeast. They visited Holy Island, Bamburgh, Seahouses, Beamish Open Air Museum, Durham, Hexham and the “Angel of the North” statue. We thank Thorley u3a for inviting us and for the photo.

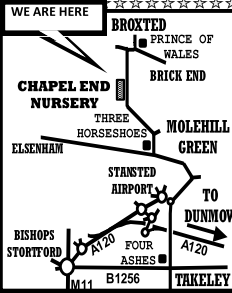


At October’s General Meeting Martin Lloyd, a former immigration official, traced the development of the passport from a handwritten note to today’s bulkier format. This proved an intriguing probe into the passport stories which shaped their history, assassins who, in the nineteenth century, caused the rules to be changed forever, a spy with a mysterious passport and a traitor, William Joyce, “Lord Haw Haw,” who was hanged by the passport he should never have had.

The General Meeting on December 15<sup>th</sup> is the Christmas Lunch at Bury Lodge. The Speaker Programme for 2023 General Meetings, although still to be confirmed, is complete and available on the web. At the General Meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup> Peter Maggs’s talk will be called “The Murder in the Red Barn”.

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He has comprehensively researched a long-ago murder in deepest rural Suffolk, specialises in this kind of historical investigation and is the author of several books.

**Good News, the Saturday Seminars will return in 2023.** The first will be on 25<sup>th</sup> February, timed to coincide with the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine. The topic is “Old Russia to European State- a History of Conflict between Ukraine and Russia” and we are delighted that David Morson, who has led several previous excellent seminars, will be presenting. The Seminar will be at the Free Church Hall, on Chapel Hill Stansted, starting at 9.30 am pre-booking only. Tickets, costing £7, will be available from 9<sup>th</sup> January via the Events page on our website or at the General Meetings in January and February.

### **Learn, Laugh, Live!**

Anne White,  
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## **Ugley WI**

The speaker at our October meeting was Jan Rickwood, one of our multi-talented members.

Jan is an independent celebrant, creator of bespoke flower arrangements and gifts, and a complementary practitioner! It was in her role as complementary practitioner that she entertained us for the afternoon.

She gave us a brief history of aromatherapy explaining that no less than thirty-three essential oils were mentioned in the bible. Then came the ‘hands on’ part of the demonstration. We were guided through a hand massaging session with the help of individual hand reflexology flow charts and some very soothing hand cream, scented with our choice of lavender or mandarin essential oils. Lovely!

We all left for home in a very soothed and relaxed frame of mind, taking our complimentary pot of hand cream with us.

Our December meeting is restricted to members only but the January meeting to be held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 2.15pm in Ugley Village Hall will be open to all. Ken McDonald will be giving a talk on the Hundred Parishes.

Why not come along and meet him. You’d be most welcome!

Andrea Fitt, 01279 815922.

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## Scouts

The past month's activities have been taking advantage of the (initially) good weather. However, Scouts are a hardy bunch who don't let a little adverse weather spoil our enjoyment of the activities on offer. As my own Scout leader used to say back in the 80's, "you're not made of sugar, so you won't dissolve in the rain!".

Our Beavers took a Halloween walk around the village, enjoyed making things at a crafts evening, had a go at martial arts and took part in a dance evening run by "Cubby", one of our fantastic Young Leaders. Our Scouts held a mindfulness evening, with meditation and yoga, and learnt about internet safety. They also went moonlight canoeing and held a Halloween fashion show by making costumes out of old clothes.



Since our last article 1<sup>st</sup> Henham & Elsenham have taken part in two major activities. The first was our Cubs, who took part in the Jamboree On The Internet / Jamboree On The Air weekend, which is the world's largest digital Scout event, taking place online and over the air. This educational event brings together

more than 2 million Scouts every year in October for a weekend of Scouting and friendship, learning about communications technology and connecting with fellow Scouts from over 172 countries. The second was our door-to-door Poppy Appeal collection which all of our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts took part in, led by our volunteer leaders and supported by lots of parent helpers. The weather wasn't the greatest, but our Scouts showed perseverance and character to get to as many houses as possible, finally raising over £1300 for the Royal British Legion. This is a quite remarkable achievement for our young people to raise so much money for charity, and we are all incredibly proud of what they accomplished. We'd like to thank everyone for their support!



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Pond pumps, filters, pre cut liners, foods and medications in stock throughout the Pond Season.

Unit 1 Goldhill House, 4 Hill Street (right next door to the Fire Station), Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 1EH



And finally, we'd like to welcome a new volunteer, Kamilah, to our Group. Kamilah has joined our Executive Committee as Group Secretary, and we wish her the best of luck in her new role. I am sure she will find volunteering with us a truly rewarding experience.

If anyone else is interested in volunteering some time, to help us provide Scouting opportunities to young people in our community, please get in touch.

Matt Morland, 07423620120

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## **Uttlesford Community Policing Team**

Wednesday 9 November saw the launch of the Uttlesford Edition of Dispatch – your local e-newsletter from Essex Police in the Uttlesford District.

We're really pleased that we're now able to offer even more ways for our communities to stay up to date with our work across Uttlesford through this weekly e-newsletter, which will replace any newsletter you have been receiving up until now.

Every Wednesday, we'll be providing you with a weekly update about what's been happening in the Uttlesford district, along with news, crime prevention advice, upcoming community events and more.

It is a digital newsletter which means once you sign up, it's sent directly to your email inbox. It's completely free and you can unsubscribe at any time.

Sign-up today by going to <https://www.getrevue.co/profile/eputtlesford>

We would really appreciate any support you could offer with helping to spread the word about the Uttlesford Edition of Dispatch to others who live, work and visit our district.

### **Uttlesford Community Policing Team**

North Local Policing Area

Essex Police

#### **Saffron Walden Police Station**

Council Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden CB11 4ER

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# Henham Village Shop Christmas News



Christmas is upon us again already and soon it will be 2023.

The Village Shop will be open over Christmas as always and is here to help with your seasonal requirements.

**The days we plan to close are the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> December and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> January.** If you need some last-minute bits and pieces, why not try the shop and save some petrol.

The post office has an extensive banking service and will be open most Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings over the Christmas period.

You can order a nine-pint mini cask of Bishop Nick real ale or real ale gift sets in festive boxes. We are accepting orders right up to a week before Christmas.

We have a good stock of wine ranging from £6.00 to £10.00 per bottle. You can also buy a range of spirits, lager or bitter in cans and soft drinks.

We have a good stock of Henham tea towels and mugs that are small but thoughtful gifts for those who have been to and would like a memento of Henham. We are also selling the 2023 Hundred Parishes Society calendar and packs of assorted Christmas cards.

Priors Hall Farm offer beautifully prepared meats for your Christmas table that you can order from us. The list is in the shop and will include turkey breast rolls, honey roast ham, beef joints and stuffing.

Greens of Thaxted will be baking their wonderful mince pies, chocolate logs and Christmas Cakes again this year and we will be taking orders from now.

Please join our raffle and have the chance to win our special Christmas Hamper plus other great prizes. Tickets are available in the shop.

**May we wish all our customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and say thank you for your support in 2022**





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## In Memory of Marion Angela Camp

It is with sadness that I report the death of Marion Camp who died in early October after a nasty fall.

Marion and her late husband Dennis were the village milkmen for over thirty years, as were his parents before them. Many Henham residents have had milk from the Camp family for over fifty years. Marion and Dennis were good friends to many in Henham and she leaves a son, Edward, and daughter, Joanna.

Her funeral took place in Debden Church on 18<sup>th</sup> October where she was buried with her late husband. Rest in peace Marion and thank you.

**Sheena Ward**



**Marion Angela Camp**  
1949 - 2022

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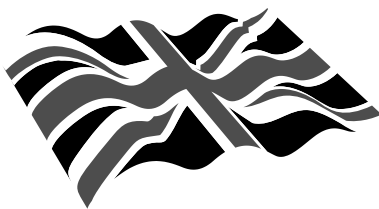
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References, Registration Docs and License Numbers Available upon request.



## Aid for Romania

The October lorry left on 27<sup>th</sup> and hopefully has arrived safely as it now must clear EU customs in Rotterdam. I will fly out to meet the lorry in Romania and help with the donation of aid to poor families and then prepare the charity shop with the better-quality goods for sale.

Our warehouse is now empty, and we are collecting for the April 2023 lorry. Some of the goods will be given free to 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 to pay the costs of the minister, as well as helping the same poor sections of the community 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); we are always desperate for children's clothes. **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 chests of drawers, (not flat pack built as these do not survive the 5-day truck journey to Romania), bedside cabinets, kitchen/dining tables (either drop-leaf or removable legs). Irons and boards. Kitchen items (crockery, cutlery, utensils, pots/pans – esp big sizes eg preserving pans). Wheelchairs, crutches, walking sticks, zimmers and boxes of incontinence pads. Bandages and dressings (*absolutely NO pills, medicines, or creams*). Rucksacks and holdalls (must be in good condition). **Costume jewellery**. Footballs. Suitcases - but not the old 'cardboard' types. Ear defenders for the manual workers and high-viz vests/jackets. Small toys such as push-along cars, cuddly toys etc (no big toys as this causes much jealousy!). Christmas decorations etc (for next winter, but I would like them now please).

Cash donations for the cost of the lorry, as it now costs more to send, as diesel prices are substantially up, and we must now clear customs.

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





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# Christmas Tree Festival



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What a grand time we all had during our Halloween week, and it was fantastic to see so many of you having the most brilliant fun on the farm! Thank you so much for coming, the animals loved seeing you all.

So, we are now getting ready for Christmas and, once again, hold on to your Santa hats as there will be SO much to do! Mr and Mrs Claus will be joining us again this year and Mrs Claus will be reading Christmas stories to the children, whilst they enjoy a hot chocolate, before getting their gifts from her.



Afterwards, a snowy walk through the Winter Woodland is a must! There will also be plenty of Christmas crafts to enjoy and of course, the animals all have to have a fuss made of them and maybe a few treats too!! Do keep a look out for our exciting Christmas plans!!

Make sure you keep an eye out on our Facebook page for our Christmas opening days and times, as booking will be essential, and you don't want to miss out on all the festive fun!



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

We look forward to seeing you in the new year and merry Christmas to you all!

Thank you so much.



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# 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
6.45 - 8.00	pm	Springbok Classes	HUSCH
7.00 - 9.00	pm	Table Tennis Club	OSCA

### Tuesdays

9.15 - 11.15	am	Badminton Club	HUSCH
3.30 - 4.30	pm	Junior Tennis	Elsenham Courts
5.30 - 6.15	pm	Street & Com Dance (8-10 yrs)	OSCA
6.00 - 7.15	pm	Cubs (term time)	Village Hall
6.15 - 7.20	pm	Street & Com Dance (11+yrs)	OSCA
7.20 - 8.20	pm	Adult Dance	OSCA

### Wednesdays

3.30 - 4.30	pm	Junior Tennis	Henham Courts
5.45 - 6.45	pm	Beavers (term time)	Village Hall
7.00 - 9.00	pm	Scouts (term time)	Village Hall
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 <sup>nd</sup> Team	Henham Courts
5.45 - 6.45	pm	Beavers (term time)	Village Hall

### Saturdays

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

### Sundays

2.00 - 4.00	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](http://visionfitnesshenham.co.uk)

## Church Services

### St Mary's, Elsenham 8.45am

- Sun 4 BCP Holy Communion  
Sun 11 BCP Morning Prayer  
Sun 18 Carols by Candlelight,  
**7pm**  
Sun 25 Christmas Day Joint All  
Age Service **9.30am**

### St Peter's, Ugley 10.00am

- Sun 4 BCP Holy Communion  
Sun 11 Morning Service  
Sun 18 Carols by Candlelight,  
**4pm**  
Sun 25 Christmas Day BCP HC

### Elsenham Village Hall 10.15am

- Sun 4 Holy Communion  
Sun 11 Morning Service

### St Mary's, Henham 11.15am

- Sun 4 Morning Service  
Wed 7 Advent Christingle  
**6.30pm**  
Sun 11 Holy Communion  
Sun 18 Benefice All Age Service,  
**10.30am**  
Sat 24 Family Carols **3.00pm**  
Sat 24 Carols by Candlelight  
**7.00pm**  
Sun 25 Christmas Day All Age  
Service, **10.30am**

### St Mary's, Henham 6.00pm

- Sun 4 Sunday@Six  
Sun 11 Sunday@Six

### Other Events this month:

- Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> & Sun 4<sup>th</sup> Christmas Tree  
Festival**, St Mary's Elsenham,  
**Sat 24<sup>th</sup> December: Family Carols**  
Henham Church **3.00pm**  
**Village Carols in Elsenham Memorial  
Garden 5-5.30pm**

Look out for **Christmas Windows**, a  
trail in Henham and Elsenham between  
17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> December. Check local

Facebook pages for details nearer the  
time.

### Other regular events

#### SUNDAYS:

#### St Peter's Junior Church

#### St Peter's, Ugley 10.00am

Sundays: 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>

#### Elsenham Sunday Club/Explorers

#### (Y1-Y6) Old Franks, Elsenham

10.15am: 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>

#### Henham Sunday Club/Explorers

#### (Reception-Y5) Church Hall,

Henham 11.00am Sundays: 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>

#### Pathfinders (Y6-Y9)

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

Sundays: 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>

#### Crammin' (Y10-Y13)

St Mary's, Henham 6.00pm leave  
from service to meet in the Church  
Hall, Henham.

Sundays: 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>

### MID-WEEK AND SATURDAY:

#### Start the Week with Prayer

#### Church Hall, Henham 9.30am

Mondays 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>

#### Seekers After School Bible Club

#### (Y3-Y4) Old Frank's 3.20pm

Mondays: 5<sup>th</sup>

#### Christian Play (Y1-Y2)

#### Rowan House, Elsenham 3.15pm

Tuesdays: 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>

#### Little Fishes Pre-School Group

#### Church Hall, Henham 10.15am

Thursdays: 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>

#### Little Fishes Pre-School Group

#### Elsenham Memorial Hall 10.00am

Fridays: 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>

#### Christmas Church Lunch Club

#### Elsenham Memorial Hall 12.30pm

Friday (2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month): 9<sup>th</sup>

#### Afternoon Tea

#### OSCA, Henham 2.00pm

Saturday: 3<sup>rd</sup>

# Church News

## Thought for the Month from Reverend Louis Wilson

I don't know whether this story is true, but it was Christmas morning. A family set off to go to church. They loved singing the carols and the feel of church on Christmas morning.

On returning, they were horrified to see their dog sitting on the drive licking its lips. At its feet were the remains of a large turkey. The dog had stolen their Christmas dinner. Furious and upset, they wondered what to do.

Then one of the children asked how the dog had managed to open the oven to get the turkey. They quickly ran inside and were surprised to discover the oven door closed and the turkey still inside.

To their dismay, they realised that the situation was much worse than they supposed. The dog had in fact stolen and devoured the neighbour's turkey. They did not dare take the dog for a walk for several weeks.

The point is this: most of us, I think, love Christmas. But more than ever, the pressure to prepare for it can completely devour what it's actually all about. And the point of Christmas is the birth of Jesus Christ.

In the Bible, Luke chapter 2, verse 11, there is a heavenly birth announcement: *Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you: he is Christ the Lord.*

David's town is Bethlehem. Saviour means Rescuer. Christ means God's King. 2000 years ago, the eternal God, somehow, stepped out of eternity and into history as the man Jesus Christ.

Recent weeks have shown us again and again that our world is full of trouble and strife. We're capable of making the mess, but we cannot find anyone capable of sorting it out. The Bible's diagnosis is that we need rescuing from the consequences of our sin and willful rebellion against the God who made us.

And Jesus is the King who can do it, as so many of the carols we sing declare. The baby of Bethlehem grew up to die on a cross, where he bears our sin, begins to reverse its horrible effects and opens up the way to God.

Please don't let the real meaning of Christmas be stolen from you. Don't settle for the wrapping paper and miss the present: God so loves this world that Jesus has come. He loves us, restores us, and he makes us clean. Do join us for one of our Christmas services. There will be carols and decorations of course, but I



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promise that you will also hear more about what it all means and why we need a Saviour.

By the way, we have moved the Christmas Day service in Henham to the earlier time of 10.30 am. We hope that this will make Christmas dinner easier to manage!

With best wishes this Christmas,  
Louis

## **From The Parish Registers**

### **Baptism:**

- On 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2022 at Henham Church, India Jane Hermet.

### **Funeral:**

- Memorial Service on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at Elsenham Church, Gordon William Barker.

### **Burial of Ashes:**

- On 5<sup>th</sup> November 2022 in Henham Churchyard, Nicholas Binks.

## **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	<a href="mailto:office@heuchurch.co.uk">office@heuchurch.co.uk</a>	
Church web-site	<a href="http://www.heuchurch.co.uk">www.heuchurch.co.uk</a>	

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 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2 – 4pm.

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





# Christmas Choir Rehearsals Still to Come



## Dates of Rehearsals:

Friday 2nd December, 7.30 pm at St Peter's, Ugley  
Friday 9th December, 7.30 pm at St Mary's, Elsenham  
Friday 16th December, 7.30 pm at St Mary's, Henham

**AND**

## Dates of Services:

Sunday 18th December, 4 pm at St Peter's, Ugley  
Sunday 18th December, 7 pm at St Mary's, Elsenham  
Saturday 24th December, 7 pm at St Mary's, Henham

*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](mailto:motts@grahammott.plus.com))



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# Elsenham Community Choir!

If you are thinking it's beginning to sound a bit like Christmas, then you would be right! The **Elsenham Community Choir** is busy rehearsing our songs for a festive performance at **The Crown in Elsenham** on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December** at **6.00pm**, so be sure not to miss this!

If you make one new year's resolution on January 1<sup>st</sup> next year, please make it to come and join us at the Choir, you won't regret it, I promise!

We began our choral venture in March 2019 and cannot believe how fast this has gone and just how much we have progressed and learned, but more to the point, how much fun and laughter we have enjoyed.

We meet on the first and third Tuesdays of every month from 7.00 to 8.30pm in Elsenham Village Hall (next to the school), and it costs just £2 a session.

If you would like to join us, regardless of your talent, you really would be very welcome. Go on, give it a go, you have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

Please just turn up or find us on our Elsenham Community Choir Facebook page or call 07962 586825.

Merry Christmas everyone and let's hope that 2023 is kind to us all.



**Henham Christmas Windows**

Look out for Christmas Windows throughout Henham from 17 to 24 December.

Everyone can join in, collecting words and bringing them to Family Carols at 3pm at Henham Church on Christmas Eve to get a prize.

Check local Facebook pages for details nearer the time, or [heuchurch.co.uk](http://heuchurch.co.uk)

The poster features several window illustrations: top left shows two windows with the text 'Hark!', 'O Herod', and 'Light Song' and illustrations of angels; top right shows a window with a scene of people; bottom left shows two windows with the number '11', stars, and illustrations of a manger scene; bottom right shows a window with a large star and a silhouette of a person on a donkey.

## Uttlesford Community Award

It is with great pleasure that Henham Parish Council announces that the Dragon Team has been successfully nominated for a Uttlesford Community Achievement Award. Henham Parish Council nominated the team for their outstanding contribution to our village. In many ways communication is the lifeblood of a village, and the Dragon team epitomises this ideal. To be able to produce a village magazine, which covers all aspects of village life, in such an easily readable style, is a masterclass in itself. To do so, with what appears to be effortless efficiency, can only be described as brilliant. We have all been able to read the Dragon every month, delivered with a smile and usually a chat, and then to catch up on what's happening in our village is a real treat.



So, on behalf of all residents, may we offer the Dragon team our sincere thanks for their hard work and congratulate them on winning this prestigious award. Well done to the Editorial team, the Advertising team, the Delivery team, and everybody past and present associated with the Dragon.

The award will be presented by the Chairman of Uttlesford District Council at a reception to be held on Thursday 5th January 2023 at 5.30pm in the Council Chamber at Uttlesford District Council.

Well done again  
Nick Baker, Chair HPC



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# Henham Parish Council

(Edited minutes from 3<sup>rd</sup> November)

## Reports and Recommendations

*Greens and Village Estate – Cllr. Baker:*

**Greens damage – Erosion** - General greens erosion in the village causing other potholes. Cllr Leech previously presented a comprehensive document with supporting photographs and examples of honeycomb matting. The Chair and Cllr Leech have recently inspected the greens and found that due to the dry summer there was no real damage. It was agreed they would reinspect the greens in early spring 2023.

### **Gravelling over and parking on Greens at Bell Cottage, High Street –**

Following a discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would much rather resolve the matter without resorting to expensive legal proceedings, however, it has been noted that the resident has not responded to any form of communication. It was agreed that the Parish Council would ask the PCSO to visit the resident with a police officer, as the resident is still parking on the greens and has not reinstated the greens. If there is no response from the resident, it was agreed that the Parish Council would reluctantly have to start court proceedings, costs would be significant and would be awarded against the resident if the Parish Council is successful. **Clerk’s note:** Following the meeting it was agreed that the Parish Council would write a further letter to the resident before asking our solicitors to issue a letter before action, in order to give the resident as much opportunity as possible to reinstate the greens and refrain from parking on the greens. The PCSO has also confirmed that several attempts have been made to speak with the resident in person but he has been unsuccessful

**Salt bins** – School salt bin has been purchased and is waiting to be installed

**Village Hall** – Windows replaced last month. Update from Cllr Fisher re Village Hall refurbishment costs and approval – a detailed costs proposal for refurbishment works was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.

Following a discussion regarding the proposed works and difficulties in obtaining three quotes per work due to contractors being very busy and prices increasing due to inflation, Cllr Fisher made the following proposals: (a) The Parish Council will use reasonable endeavours to obtain the required number of quotes for the Village Hall works – seconded by Cllr LeCount, approved nem con. (b) The Parish Council agrees to a budget of £100,000 for the refurbishment of the Village Hall, seconded by Cllr LeCount, approved nem con. The Parish Council thanks Cllr Fisher for all his hard work in connection with village hall matters.

**PCSO** – planned review meeting has been postponed. New date to be confirmed. Chair to chase

**Speedwatch** – Speeding presentation, organised by UDC this was scheduled to take place in the Hatfield Broad Oak village hall on Thursday 10 November, 18:45 for 19:00. Cllr Franklin attended.

**Warm Spaces** – UDC have asked all Parish Councils to consider if there are any community spaces that could be used as a warm space and/or activities for residents. The clerk has also circulated details of grants available from ECC to fund this. Following a discussion, it was agreed it would be difficult to implement a warm space, having regard to opening, supervision, locking up etc. It was agreed that residents would be able to support those in need, as this was previously done during the pandemic. District Cllr Lees is also writing in the Dragon about a trust scheme which provides financial support to those in need.

**Management of Pledgdon Green** – (a) There is a bough overhanging a resident property which needs cutting back. Resident is obtaining quotes. Cllr Rutterford has been liaising with County Cllr Gooding and the Essex Records Office to establish who has responsibilities and ownership of the common land. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the clerk would look at the legal documentation with a view to the Chair instructing our solicitors to confirm the position. Cllr Rutterford is still awaiting details from the case worker at ECC. (b) Regarding the grass cuttings on Pledgdon Green, Cllr Rutterford is awaiting confirmation from the farmer. The tractor and hay turner are still on the green. (c) Cllr Rutterford is awaiting a quote for hedge-cutting the road-side hedges along Pledgdon Green Lane/Brick End Road for approval by Cllrs.

**Resolution under S45 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976** – The Clerk has previously circulated to Councillors a notice from UDC regarding UDC's intention on 6/12/22 to confirm their resolution dated 31/1/89 to adopt Part II of the above Act. It is a legal requirement that receipt of this notice is minuted by HPC.

**Local Road Closures** – There have been some recent unannounced road closures impacting on access from our village to Saffron Walden. It is unclear why this is the case when works are not emergency works (in which case no notice is required). The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation.

**Airport Parking in Henham** – Update from Cllr LeCount who will be attending a meeting with the airport late November. It was noted there is no issue with airport parking in Henham, but it is increasingly an issue in surrounding villages and along the airport road.

*Finance*

<b><u>Receipts</u></b>					
<u>From Whom</u>	<u>Description</u>				<u>Amount</u>
various	Headstone fees				£270.00
resident	Cemetery fee				£750.00
Payments					
<u>To Whom</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Total</u>	
M Dacey	Quarterly WFH allowance and admin expenses	£84.00	£0.0	£84.00	
M Dacey	Clerk's salary (September)	£419.89	£0.0	£419.89	
Pellys Solicitors Limited	Bell Cottage Greens dispute legal fees	£750.00	£150.00	£900.00	
JRB Enterprise Ltd	Dog poo bags	£65.71	£13.14	£78.85	
Uttlesford Association of Local Councils	Annual subscription	£10.00	£0.00	£10.00	
Mrs E Rutterford	Refund for Commons Land Register	£10.00	£0.0	£10.00	
PA Knott	Grass cut 5/10 & 19/10	£910.00	£0.0	£910.00	
The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	HPC poppy wreath	£25.00	£0.0	£25.00	
N Baker	Refund for wine for internal auditor	£23.00	£0.0	£23.00	
M Dacey	Refund for stamps	£29.88	£0.0	£29.88	
JRB Enterprise Ltd (	Dog poo bags	£65.71	£13.14	£78.85	
M Fisher	Refund for defibrillator training	£250.00	£0.0	£250.00	
PA Knott	Grass cut 2/11	£455.00	£0.0	£455.00	

**Q4 Accounts for 21/22 & Q1 Accounts for 22/23** – These have been signed off and approved by Cllr Fisher.

***Planning and Developments –***

**UTT/22/2752/FUL** – proposed new access for farm vehicles, Land South Of Henham Road Elsenham. This will be reviewed further by Cllr Franklin and Cllr LeCount.

**UTT/22/2761/OP** – proposed Outline Planning Application (with all matters reserved save access) for the erection of a one and a half storey dwelling, Beech Bungalow Old Mead Road

**UTT/22/2838/HHF** – proposed replacement roof, replacement fenestration and minor alterations to existing outbuilding, Cedar Cottage Crow Street - HPC have registered their continued objection on the basis that the existing structure is illegal and under enforcement proceedings and the proposals increase the roof height.

**UTT/22/1975/HHF & UTT/22/1976/LB** - Re-consultation – proposed Side and rear single storey extensions, fenestration alteration to rear of property, top floor dormer window, Bacons Farm, Crow Street

**UTT/22/2778/FUL** – proposed erection of 1 no. detached 4-bedroom dwelling, Four Winds Old Mead Lane. It was agreed, the Planning subcommittee will liaise with District Cllrs Lees and LeCount.

**Breaches: Continuing breaches at Cedar Cottage**- This is now under an enforcement notice which became operational and effective on 31/1/22. Parish Council continues to monitor the situation. The clerk emailed UDC enforcement for an update 10/6/22 and UDC confirmed that a compliance check will be undertaken after the 9-month compliance period lapses. Failure to comply with a notice is an offence and UDC have the options to prosecute for the non-compliance, take direct action and carry out the works and put a charge on the land or do nothing. This is now linked to planning application UTT/22/2838/HHF referred to above.

**INVESTIGATIONS INTO ALLEGED BREACH**

Not building according to planning permission UTT/18/2939/FUL, at Yew Tree House (Puddingstone House) Old Mead Road Henham Bishops Stortford Hertfordshire CM22 6JQ – UDC enforcement confirmed: The Council’s Planning Enforcement Team has investigated a referral regarding the alleged breach of planning control at the above-mentioned address, reference INV/22/0055/C. An investigation into this matter has been carried out and the file has now been closed for the following reason: - Approved under UTT/22/1773/FUL. This matter will not be investigated any further unless the Council receives additional information which warrants the matter to be investigated again or information regarding a different alleged breach of planning control

### **Appeals:**

**APP/C1570/W/22/3300023 - UTT/21/0247/OP** - Outline application with all matters reserved except access, layout and scale 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, The Rise Brick End. Hearing took place on 11 October 2022. The issue of the appellant's representative using unseen evidence at the appeal hearing was followed up by Cllr Rutterford who heard back from PINS (the Planning Inspectorate). PINS has confirmed that they have accepted Cllr Rutterford's correspondence/Will O'Connor's remarks on the 'new evidence' and have gone to the appellants for final comments.

### **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 Chair has now received a response from the UDC development manager. The Chair will review the UDC response and will ask UDC to provide any updates as soon as they hear from the developer.

**Bloor Homes – Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (Section 62A Applications) - Outline Planning Application with all matters Reserved except for the Primary means of access for the development of up to 200 residential dwellings along with landscaping, public open space and associated infrastructure works at Land East of Station Road, Elsenham.** PINS – HPC need to provide a substantive response to this consultation by 17 November 2022, although this has been sent to Elsenham Parish Council in error. PINS have been notified the proposed development falls within the parish of Henham and the correctly addressed notice has been received by the clerk. New deadline agreed as 22 November 2022. Councillors have agreed to instruct our planning and transport professionals. Planning subcommittee had a meeting on 25/10/22 – agenda and minutes previously circulated to Cllrs. FOI request has been served on UDC and ECC by Cllr Baker. Residents will be advised on how to object in due course. There will be a 48-hour camera survey carried out along Chapel Hill and Grove Hill and the Chair will investigate if this can be extended to Cambridge Road.

An enforcement file has been opened ENF/21/0204/C regarding the application for a residential site application on North Hall Road. A new enforcement officer has been appointed by UDC.



*Highways* – **Update from County Cllr Gooding via email dated 3/11/22: North Hall Road: Road Closure**: Notice received of intended closure of North Hall Road, due to commence on 12th February 2022 for a further 266 days The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while Essex County Council undertakes retaining wall. The link to the webpage is on the village website. Works to re-build the retaining wall commenced on 25 July 2022 and were expected to take three months to complete. Update from Essex Highways 28/9/22: Works to re-build the retaining wall along North Hall Road commenced as planned and good progress is being made on site. The installation of the sheet piles has recently been completed and we are now moving on to the next phase of works, which involves the construction of the reinforced concrete capping beam. We have also carried out temporary make safe repairs to critical areas on the carriageway on Ugley Road. Our programme continues to be on schedule for completion at the end of October 2022. Photos showing the sheet piles being installed can be found on the scheme website. (See link to this on our village website). **UPDATE re Road Opening** – a minimum three week delay due to change in contractor’s supply chain.

An enforcement file has been opened ENF/21/0204/C regarding the application for a residential site application on North Hall Road. A new enforcement officer has been appointed by UDC.

Hall Road, Henham: Following a further LHP meeting on 24/10/22 the signage will be installed during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the current financial year.

Old Mead Road, Old Mead Lane road signs – Faded road markings are in the schedule for the current financial year and will be carried out when the weather is less wet. As regards the footpath signage, Cllr Franklin will continue to liaise with County Cllr Gooding.

**Residents are encouraged to also report any matters to Essex Highways direct via the Essex Highways web site [www.essex.gov.uk/highways](http://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](mailto: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** – The Parish Council Standing Orders and Financial Regulations have been circulated by the Clerk to all Councillors for review in the coming months. Code of Conduct investigations by UDC’s independent external adjudicator are ongoing.

**Local Plan** – Documents related to the local plan can be found at: [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/new-local-plan](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/new-local-plan). UDC announced on 13 September 2022 that the timetable previously published is being cancelled. Latest timetable is as follows:

- |                                                    |                  |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| • Draft Local Plan Consultation (Reg. 18)          | Late Summer 2023 |
| • Pre-Submission Local Plan Consultation (Reg. 19) | Mid 2024         |
| • Submission of Local Plan for Examination         | Autumn 2024      |
| • Independent Examination                          | Winter 2024      |
| • Adoption                                         | October 2025     |

## **Henham SOV 100 Club draw –**

### **September Draw**

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

#### **September 160 Members**

**1st Prize Number 118 (A Deady-Fiddler) £232**

**2nd Prize Number 70 (P Mistry) £112**

**3rd Prize Christmas Bonus Ball Accumulator £56 Cumulative total £567**

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.

#### **October 160 Members**

**1st Prize Number 115 (S Bambridge) £232**

**2nd Prize Number 105 (N Parnell) £112**

**3rd Prize Christmas Bonus Ball Accumulator £56 Cumulative total £623**

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.

🎄 Just a reminder next month is our Christmas Bonus Ball draw with estimated total of £679 for one lucky winner plus our regular monthly prize money 🎄



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## District Councillor Report

I was delighted to see that many residents have been placing their refuse bins, with the handle facing the road, to ensure easier access for the collectors. I am aware that lots of folk hadn't needed my gentle nudge in previous reports, still wonderful to see.

Ending the year on a positive note, our housing team attended the Essex Housing Awards and we are delighted that we won the "Working in Partnership" Award- this was a partnership between ourselves and a family in need for a specially adapted bungalow in Elsenham. We were also nominated for the "Covid-19 Recovery" Award. We came 2<sup>nd</sup> and were commended for the work of the partnership in supporting rough sleepers through the pandemic, lockdown, everyone in, move on and vaccination roll out. We are very proud of our teams, at an unprecedented time, when we were all scared, for not only our own safety but the safety of all our loved ones, were resourceful and robust and willing to rip up the rule book. Our team did exceptionally well.

We have also resolved to approve the Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2023/24. Thank you to those that responded to the consultation. This means that the contribution rate is frozen for the ninth consecutive year at 12.5% and we continue to protect vulnerable and disabled residents and carers on low incomes.

We have also proposed that £300,000, (from the Environment allocated budget), is allocated to community-based carbon reduction and/or biodiversity projects within the district. Funding is made available between £1000 and £35,000. Non-profit groups or organisations based in Uttlesford, including any town or parish council within the district, can apply for funding for new projects which will deliver carbon emission reduction, community engagement in climate change, or ecological enhancement in your community deadline is **midday on Thursday 5 January 2023**. For more information <https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/zero-carbon-communities-grant>

We still have some ward initiative fund monies that has to be spent by the end of this year.

Although we are not allocating a surgery this month, we are always happy to chat, via telephone, email or zoom.

We would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy 2023.

Petrina 816675

Garry 07836346717

[cllrlees@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrlees@uttlesford.gov.uk)

[cllrlecount@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrlecount@uttlesford.gov.uk)

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## Village Hall News

The nights are definitely drawing in now that the clocks have changed and we've found, as usual, that there's an increase in party bookings, as the days of parties in the garden come to an end. This is great news for the hall, which has also just hosted the Henham Christmas Market, a truly brilliant event and well done to all involved.

You may have noticed our smart new windows at the front of the hall. They look great and will soon be joined by many other exciting improvements.

We're no longer taking bookings for 2023 as we hope interior work will finally begin in the New Year. Should you be looking at arranging something later in the year though, do consider us.

The Village Hall Committee.

---

## Foodbanks

### **Wells Trust, Trussell Trust and Henham, Elsenham and Ugly Trust**

These trusts help those in need at Christmas. We will be having a formal meeting prior to this magazine delivery, and I am hopeful we will have some cash set aside for anyone we have missed. Please contact me if you, or anyone you know, could do with a little help: -tel. 816675 or email

[petrinalees@hotmail.com](mailto:petrinalees@hotmail.com)

All conversations are **completely** confidential.

New data show that foodbanks in the Trussell Trust network gave out 33% more food parcels this year compared to the same period in 2021. They will give out over 300 Christmas Hampers this year in Uttlesford. All donations would be welcome by Dec 12th please. We know budgets are tight this year, but these hampers will make a big difference, so thank you in advance. Our list for Christmas includes tinned salmon, tinned ham, biscuits, chocolates, fruit juice, Christmas log, gravy/stuffing, crackers (for cheese), jam/honey, small toiletry items, custard, jellies, coffee and part baked rolls (please check use by date).

I gather there were some issues with foodbanks last year - but hopefully we can at least get some Christmas donations! I would be very grateful for any donations, either to the collection point in the village shop or to the Uttlesford or Bishop's Stortford foodbanks; (I do deliver parcels from foodbanks to Henham).

Petrina Lees



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## Henham Tennis Club News

We are the Champions! Well, the Ladies of Henham Tennis Club certainly are as the first team, comprising Fiona Price, Monica Sutherland, Katie Harris, Sally Robinson and Gill Foster produced a superb run of results in the Small Clubs League 1<sup>st</sup> Division to top the table. This is how Monica summed up their performance: "Henham got off to a flying start, winning our first four matches 12-4. Apart from one narrow loss (6-10 v Stansted) and a draw against Dunmow, the remaining six matches were won convincingly. Henham 1st team Ladies have not won this division since the winter of 2005/6! A huge well done to everyone who played in the team. Not bad for a small village club and often facing much younger competitors!" Sincere congratulations and the least we can hope for is more success in the coming winter league.



Our other Ladies team, who featured a number of newcomers enjoyed mixed success but produced plenty of positive tennis under the captaincy of Lindsay Lane. This is Lindsay's summary of their season: "In spite of not being able to play all our matches this summer we achieved a very credible third place in the league table. Well done ladies! All the matches are always friendly events but played with an element of competitiveness, which makes it all the more fun. As we now look forward to the winter league, Charlotte Balls will be taking over the reins for organising the Division 3 matches and I know I leave it in capable hands." Our sincere thanks to Lindsay for her commitment and enthusiasm in encouraging more ladies to venture into playing competitive matches, and good luck Charlotte. In contrast to the ladies who raced away at the start of their season, the Mixed 1<sup>st</sup> team got off to a much slower start, playing only two matches between May and the end of August! Continuing in the words of





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Monica: “There were lots of reasons – summer holidays, covid, and poor availability generally. I must admit as captain I was a bit concerned about the season and could not have arranged the remaining eight matches played in September and October without the incredible commitment from the team – Scott Reynolds, Phil Holder, Matthew Robinson, Fiona Price, Ali Maxwell (and myself). It is a very small squad, just like the ladies, but to complete eight matches in six weeks is no mean feat. Thank you everyone, and well played, as despite everything we came 3<sup>rd</sup> in what is a very strong division.”

Suffice it to say that the Men’s team, as documented in previous editions struggled throughout, playing just one match which they won against Dunmow by a very credible score of 10-6. After too many years to remember I am standing down from the captaincy and handing the reins into the capable hands of Phil Holder to whom I am most grateful, and to whom I wish the best of good fortune. The twenty participating clubs in the league met at the end of October to review the season and to plan for the winter. We are very grateful to Dunmow for running the league during the last year and to Stebbing for agreeing to take over the reins. Apart from the tennis the social side of playing should not be underestimated. Let’s hope that those involved, and there are several players now on the verge of representing the club, can continue to do Henham Tennis Club proud!

Team tennis is basically about who wins and who loses, but does it really matter if you win or lose? Here are a few points I stumbled across recently that just might act as a leveller. Don’t get too wrapped up in what the scoreboard says. There are many plus points that tennis has to offer that have nothing to do with the score. Enjoy the exercise, the camaraderie, the competition and the process of trying to become better. Appreciate what you are achieving and don’t get down hearted; be positive and then you will be a winner every time you walk on the court.

By the time you read this it must have dawned on you that Christmas is just around the corner. Inevitably we will give some presents if only because we like to receive presents ourselves (although finding spare cash for such necessities is a problem in itself this year). So here are my usual, but far fewer and hopefully cheaper ideas for someone who enjoys tennis. Two books stand out for me: Roger Federer-The Biography by Rene Stauffer (Swiss Journalist) and Sue Barker: Calling the Shots – My Autobiography. Two outstanding tennis personalities who have plenty to say about their time on court, and in Sue Barker’s case, off it as well! If reading doesn’t inspire you how about a pair of Bionic Gloves – designed to help players get a better grip on their rackets,



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especially if hands become sweaty during a match! They are said to dull the vibrations that can cause tennis elbow!

If you are not in the Christmas spirit already no doubt you soon will be. So why not put **TUESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER** in your diary now and book yourself in to the **TINSEL TOURNAMENT** which will take place, (weather permitting), from 11am – 2pm. All are welcome, fancy dress optional, and mulled wine and seasonal fare will be on offer. One thing is certain, there will be fun aplenty...as long as you are there! Looking further ahead into the New Year, our annual **QUIZ NIGHT** is scheduled for **SATURDAY 28<sup>th</sup> JANUARY** in **OSCA**. Further details to follow. Finally, a tricky little conundrum: How do chickens dance at the Christmas Party?

The answer: Chick to Chick.

It remains for me, on behalf of the Tennis Club Committee and everyone at the club, to wish you all a peaceful and joyous Christmas.

John G Smith

---

## **In the Garden**

Hello again Dear Reader

The months fly by and here we are almost at the end of another year (still no offers of Pantomime). It has been a challenging one for us gardeners, with Mother Nature seemingly thrown into confusion at times. Whilst penning this masterpiece, I am looking out of the window at a Clematis in full flower, a Hypericum Hidcote which is having a second flush of flowers and grass that definitely needs cutting. Pelargoniums and Fuchsias are still in full bloom, as are many other summer-flowering perennials. All too much for my tiny mind! The mild weather has extended the growing season and you may well still have perennials to clear from the beds. One of the dangers of mild periods such as this, is that one can be lulled into a false sense of security and not worry enough about sudden frosts. My advice, for what it's worth, is to act as if it's a normal year and protect any tender plants.

Another feature of the weather in recent years is that it seems to have become much windier. It's a good idea to reduce the height of shrubs like Buddleia to prevent damage. Reduce the branches by about half and then they can be properly pruned in March. If you have established roses which are quite tall,

particularly pillar roses, it's a good idea to cut them back by about a third as well. This is also a good time to plant new roses, as long as the ground is not too wet and sticky. If you have made an early start with Sweet Peas, wait until they are about 4 inches (10 cm) tall and then pinch out the tops just above the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> pair of leaves. This will help produce a bushier plant with more flowers.

You can prune apple and pear trees from now until mid-February, but don't on any account prune plum, peach, or any other soft fruit until the spring, for fear of the tree developing "Silver Leaf".

Continue weeding beds and borders. Use a long handled weeding fork or a hoe to loosen the soil around the plants. I recently heard a remarkably simple, but effective piece of advice about weeding from an elderly gardener. "When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing weeds and not plants is to pull on them. If they come out of the ground easily, they are plants and need to be replaced quickly."

I know you are on tenterhooks Dear Reader, just waiting with great anticipation for another of my little-known bits of advice. I shall not disappoint you. Over the past couple of summers in particular, we have come to appreciate the great value of water butts. In autumn and winter, however, the valuable store of water can go sour if leaves get into it. The obvious first solution to the problem is to make sure your water butt(s) have covers, with just a hole for the down pipe. Leaves will of course still get in via this pipe. You can buy quite expensive gadgets to prevent this, but I find the simplest way to keep leaves out is to crumple a piece of chicken wire into a ball and place it in the top of the down pipe. Another cheap and simple method is to cut the foot off an old pair of tights, place it over the end of the pipe and tie it in place. If you do this, however, remember to remove it regularly and clean it out.

You can still plant pot grown herbaceous plants as long as the ground is not too soggy. Planting them now will give them plenty of time to establish themselves and develop a good strong root system.

Well Dear Reader, I think that's about it for 2022 It only remains for me to wish you and yours a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and productive New Year.

I would also like to offer the same good wishes to the Dragon team and thank them for indulging me for yet another year. Hopefully they will agree to let me waffle on again in 2023, so until next time, Happy Gardening.



# THE COCK INN HENHAM



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### **REFUSE COLLECTION FOR DECEMBER**

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.

<b>BROWN BIN (kitchen leftovers)</b>	<b>collected every week</b>
<b>BLACK BIN (non-recyclables)</b>	<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>GREEN BIN (recyclables)</b>	<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>GREEN GARDEN WASTE</b>	<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup></b>

**Arrangements for Christmas collections were unavailable at the time of printing, please visit [Uttlesford.gov.uk](http://Uttlesford.gov.uk) for up-to-date information**

### **Village Shop & Post Office Opening Hours**

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Shop: -

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Saturday 9am to 1pm

Sunday 9.30am to 12.30pm

**Please note the shop will be closed 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> December**

### **Copy Date**

Pushpa Mistry is the editor for January and contributions need to arrive by **9<sup>th</sup> December**. Please e-mail: - [henhamdragon@hotmail.com](mailto:henhamdragon@hotmail.com)

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

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Village functions and charity fundraising events are advertised free.

**We are now taking enquires for next year's annual advertising. Our advertising year will run from April 2023 to March 2024, contact Sheena Bigland on 01279 850373 for rates.**

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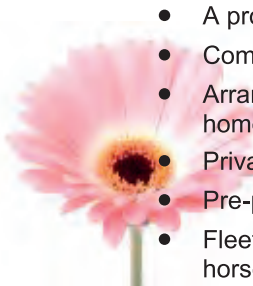
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