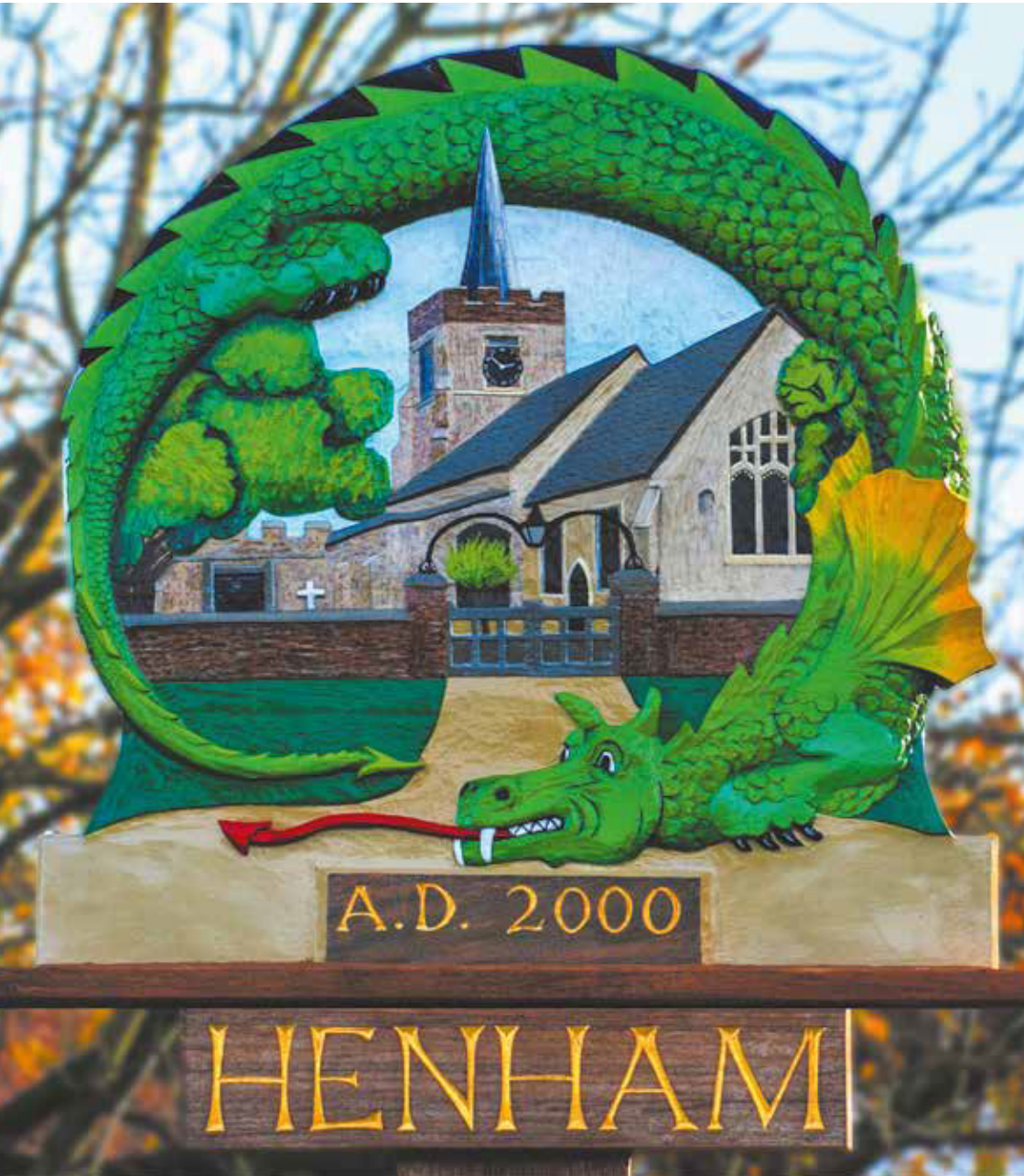


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Editorial

Happy New year Dear readers. Our lovely village remains a wonderful place to live. The village calendar is packed with clubs. Volunteering is high on our list of talents. Henham and Ugley school were very grateful to all those who helped give the school a revamp in the summer and are looking for more support with various projects, please see their article. Sadly, the Henham Christmas Market team are retiring after many years, if you have an interest in taking over the reins, it would be welcomed.

Letters to the Editor

Henham Christmas market

Thanks so much for being part of the very successful Henham Christmas Market on Friday 10th November.

The grand total of monies raised from the event was a phenomenal £6,083.81, this has been split 50/50 between Friends of Mason Montague Society and Meningitis Research Foundation. Big thank you to all donations made to our cause and to those who donated directly to Masons Fundraising page via Just Giving.

Here is a bit of background to the history of the Henham Christmas Market. Originally it was started by Jo Pope & Lara Laycock about 22 years ago in 2001 in Jo's house, Anna Sedgbeer joined in 2013, Lesley Corr joined the same year and left due to other commitments and in 2022 Annie Jenkins joined the team. Originally, we were fundraising for G.O.S.H and over the years have added other charities such as Herts & Essex Air Ambulance, Alzheimer's Society, St Clare Hospice, COSMIC and last year we fundraised for Bowel Cancer UK.

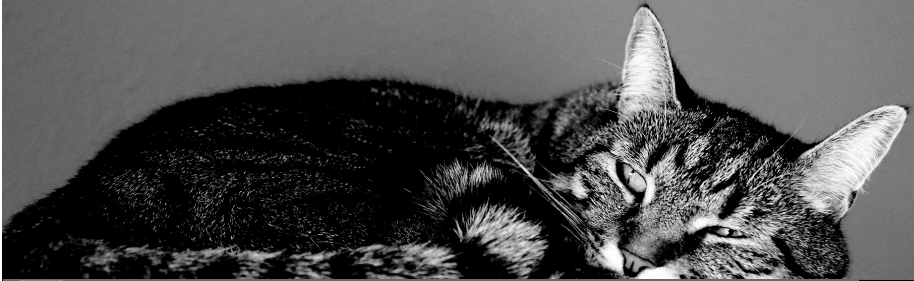
After so many years the core team have decided to step down from organising the Henham Christmas Market and we would like to say thank you to everyone who has supported us over the years and helped us raise over £35,000 for charity. If anybody would like to take on the organising of this very popular village event then we are very happy to help facilitate this. Please do come and speak to one of us.

We would also like to thank all those who made donations of raffle prizes: The Cock Inn, Elevated Beauty, Helen Hawker, Lino Thomas, Katie Reflexologist,

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In our article printed in the December Dragon we were transparent about how the funds raised were used. Mentioning the £344 cost to hire the Village Hall was in no way meant to demoralise or undermine the Village Hall Committee but to show what the funds raised were spent on.

On behalf of the Henham Christmas Market we thank you all for your support and help over the years and wish you all a Happy New Year.

Jo Pope, Lara Laycock, Anna Sedgbeer and Annie Jenkins

Potholes and drains

I have recently completed the logging of the potholes and drains in Mill Road, Henham and Hall Road, Elsenham in an effort to get these particularly dangerous potholes repaired.

This has involved photographing, siting with What3Words, measuring length, width and depth to give continuity for the increase in the damage done; then logging these with Essex Highways.

I have emailed Cllr Ray Gooding of Essex County Council and Cllr Lee Scott of Essex Highways who has referred the details to Cllr Tom Cunningham who now has this remit.

I noted on the Essex Highways website that one of these potholes, by the entrance to Daisy May's, was registered with them as early as 1st November 2023 but is still awaiting inspection. Advice notes as quoted below:

Enquiry No: 2876083 1/11/23 An inspector will carry out an initial assessment to determine the next appropriate action, which may include a site visit. This could take up to 28 days. Please continue to check for updates.

There was no visible proof that an inspection had been carried out during November or December as there were no white or red painted lines around the holes or drains.

An update on 7th January 2024 changes the enquiry number and gives the same advice. Enquiry No: 2886046 7/1/24

I shall be continuing to check for updates, writing to those whose job it is to ensure that they uphold the motto/aim for Essex Highways of SAFER/GREENER/HEALTHIER.

However, I would like to also say that progress was made on the earlier potholes in Mill Road so there is hope.

Thank you, **Sue Leech**

PS. Sue has now been informed that these will be inspected within five days, from the 12/1/24. We should start to see white and red paint around them. Maybe they will have been fixed by the time the February Dragon is delivered!

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2023



I would like to give a big thank you to each and every one of those who helped with the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal this year.

Their fantastic efforts meant that we raised an incredible £30,006 for our District, yet another record!

Particular thanks must go to those who went out in all weathers collecting door-to-door, in Henham, Elsenham, Stansted, Manuden, Farnham, Ugley, Birchanger & Cherry Green

Together with all those who manned our Poppy stand at the Airport Terminal, our residents, and the 33 & 35 Royal Engineer Regiments based at Carver Barracks. Not forgetting those shops, pubs and local businesses who also kindly sold poppies.

Without my volunteers we would not have made 2023 such a resounding success. New volunteers are always welcome, if you think you can help in anyway, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you all.

Simon Bambridge sibambridge@icloud.com

Stansted District EDN17



The Barn Theatre, Little Easton.

I would just like to share with your readers the very enjoyable experience Sheena & I had while being entertained at the **Barn Theatre, Little Easton** leading up to Christmas.

Although I have known about the theatre for many years an extraordinarily little advertising is given to their productions so on a whim, I visited their website and booked for two shows.

The first was a two-act comedy "Waiting for God" preceded by a 2/3 course meal of a very high standard.

Enthused by this, a week later we reserved our seats for a pre-Xmas show entitled "The Good Old Days" with mulled wine & mince pies. As you can imagine this was an action-packed performance based upon the TV series of the same name. A glittering array of artists performed song & dance, magic, comedy & recitation all chaired by the "*Equivably, accredited, pre-eminently, splendidly & resplendent*" Chairman.

Throughout the whole show the packed audience (all ages inc.children) sang along to a chorus of well known songs of the period.

The evening had even more relevance to us when learning of the history of the theatre. Performers who have trod the very boards included Charlie Chaplin, Gracie Fields, H.G.Wells, George Formby to name but a few.

The Barn Theatre reputed to have been the location of Tudor revels in the sixteenth century was converted from the village tithe barn to a theatre in 1913 by Daisy, Countess of Warwick 'to amuse her growing family'. The song "Daisy, Daisy, Give Me Your Answer Do" was written about her, and Grenville was Daisy's family name. The Grenville Theatre Company continue to perform plays twice a year in the Spring and Autumn.

I would thoroughly recommend a visit, especially as it is on our doorstep.

Gerry Bigland

Grand Book Sale

Saturday 3rd February 10am – 4pm OSCA entrance free.

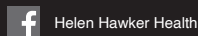
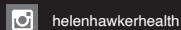
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- Energy efficient behaviours
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- Community services, including transport and food delivery

It is important to know that **you don't have to be on benefits to access this support** - call 01799 618858 or email warmhomes@uttlesfordca.org.uk . Advice is always completely free and confidential.

Heating Oil

Over a quarter of homes in Uttlesford use Oil or LPG to heat their homes. If you have been getting your heating oil from the same supplier for some time it is worth doing a price comparison to ensure you are getting the best price. You can do this on one of the many price comparison websites, for example:

- www.oil-club.co.uk
- www.boilerjuice.com/
- www.fueltool.co.uk/

Joining your local heating oil club is another great way of finding savings. Speak to your Parish Council or neighbourhood group. Or visit the Uttlesford District Council website for more information and links to local groups <https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/5783/Set-up-or-join-an-oil-club>.

Always make sure you ring round a few suppliers to compare prices before placing an order and don't be afraid to haggle!

Join our Team!

If you would like to help people get the advice and confidence they need to tackle their problems, Uttlesford Citizens Advice would love to hear from you! The local charity is in urgent need of volunteer advisers - and someone with a background in HR or cloud based IT to join the board of trustees.

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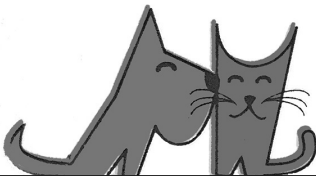
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News from Henham Village Hall

A belated Happy New Year to you all! A new year where we look back on what has been achieved in 2023 and get ready for what lies ahead. As you should know our village hall got a makeover, thanks to the support of many Henham residents. New heating, insulation, flooring – it's looking fantastic. And, speaking of modernization, our digital renovation also happened in 2023! Explore our website at henhamvillagehall.co.uk for the latest updates and to make your booking.

Recently we have had some great fundraising events. Big thanks to Jenny Kodesh and friends for the jumble sale – over £1000 raised! Our committee also hosted events like wreath making and a lively bottomless brunch. We will make sure we keep the good times rolling through 2024. Such fundraising events mean that we will be investing more money into improving the hall, expect new features – blinds, a baby changing table, kitchen appliances and more. A friendly reminder, we're a charity, and this hall is the only one the village owns, relying on fundraisers and the support of the village and its residents to ensure the hall remains a vital resource for another 100 years.

You'll find Dinky Dragons playgroup at the hall on Mondays at 9.30, invigorating yoga at 6:45 PM on also Mondays and Karate at 5:15 PM on Thursdays but we'd love to see more community activities at the hall in 2024.

Have you got ideas for a regular event or club? The Henham Parish Council Community Grant awaits your community-enhancing ideas – whether it's a youth club, coffee morning, or any other concept. Let's collaborate. Get in touch at info@henhamvillagehall.co.uk. Best wishes to you all, The Village Hall Committee.

Elsenham Brownies.

Looking for volunteers and a new leader from September.

I am currently the leader of this pack and have been for 26yrs. It was formed in June 1957 and has continued to grow through the years with hundreds of girls having passed through.

But now is the time for me to hopefully hand over to someone else as I will be stepping down from all my guiding commitments at the end of June this year, some 37yrs of various roles in units, district, division, and county.

We are a thriving unit with a waiting list, and it would be very sad if we had to close in the summer. Are you that someone who'd like a new challenge / interest? You will be rewarded by becoming part of the wider guiding family, making new friendships, seeing girls flourish from shy individuals to confident young ladies, ready to take on the world.



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Brownies these days have moved with the times and now enjoy a variety of new badges, including Aviation, Space, Zero Waste, Inventing, Jobs, Speaking Out and many more.

Girls experience an array of skills, themes, outings, infact anything they are willing to try we can normally arrange.

So, if you think you're up for the challenge please contact me and hopefully the girls will continue to have a unit to attend come September.

It has been a huge privilege to have served my community for so long and brought so much joy and experiences to so many young girls.

Jennifer Jarvis – Leader – 07900123917 - elsenhambrownies@outlook.com



A chilly and rainy winter day did not keep a large hall full of u3a members from their monthly meeting where Ray Clark gave a talk; ‘Stay tuned - I could say something brilliant at

any moment’, a familiar catch phrase many recognized. Ray’s subject was the rebellious and exciting broadcasting of Pirate Radio and Radio Caroline in particular, where he worked for many years. Enthusiasm for the music drove him and the other presenters to tolerate cramped conditions out on the choppy sea as his fascinating slides demonstrated. Please do check the details of the 2024 monthly talks on the u3a website. There really is something to interest everyone.

The poetry group recently enjoyed sessions on Maya Angelou and John Keats then in December the theme was celebrations from different cultures. 2024 promises more intriguing poetry and discussion including sessions on Elizabeth Barrett-Browning and Sylvia Plath. The group meets locally on the first Thursday of each month in the afternoon and welcomes anyone with an interest in poetry and life - if that sounds a little po-faced know that Pam Ayres has been a regular choice!

The u3a Singers were welcomed back to the Hadham Country Club once again for their Christmas performance which was enthusiastically received by the audience - such that they have been booked for Christmas 2024 already! New members are welcome, and details can be found on the website

For their Christmas celebration The Bus Pass group stayed relatively close to home by journeying to Saffron Walden. This intrepid group have further intriguing destinations in store for 2024 so think about making extra good use of your bus pass in friendly company. For details of these and many other u3a groups held in the Stansted area please visit the website: www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted

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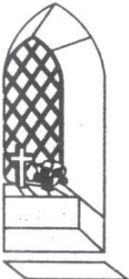
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Chilly conditions often greet us as we step outside in the early months of the year. The old saying - “When the wind is out of the East, tis never good for man nor beast” - certainly rings true. Before the advent of broadcast weather forecasts, people had to rely on checking nearby weathervanes for the wind direction. These were usually found on tall buildings such as church spires, while Audley End House has gilded weathervanes illustrated here. A variety of designs can be seen, for example the one in Braughing in the photo below.



Robert McFarlane’s books of old words include about fifty that describe winds, storms or clouds. One Essex term he mentions is *airish*, used to describe a sharp cutting wind. The East Anglian word for a strong sudden gust is *gussock*, or *twitchy* for an unsteady wind.



Forecasting the weather for those who till the soil is helpful as weeks of westerly winds can bring relentless rain causing waterlogging of the ground, while cold easterly winds dry out the soil and retard growth.

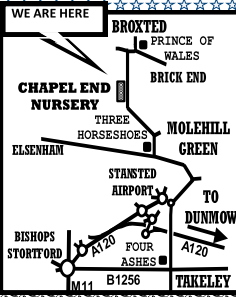
Currently, the UK Meteorological Office operates over 200 official automated sites, each recording accurate measurements of temperature, wind speed and direction, and the amount of precipitation. These readings are processed by powerful computers and the results enable forecasters to make predictions about future weather conditions. Local recording sites include the Cambridge Botanic Gardens and Stansted Airport. By searching the Met Office website <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk> you can check the local weather forecast to help plan your day.

Many individuals or schools are interested in operating a personal weather station and the Met Office is keen to enhance the weather observations network; it asks those who have a personal weather station, manual or automatic, to send data to its Weather Observations Website, WOW, at <https://wow.metoffice.gov.uk>.

Tricia Moxey, Trustee

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UGLEY WI

It was a case of ‘Jam and Jerusalem’ at our November meeting. The jam being provided by Mike Rea and Ray Franklin of Elsenham local history society who gave us a fascinating, beautifully illustrated talk on the history of the much loved and greatly missed Elsenham jam factory. Established in the 1890’s by the Gilbey family of Elsenham Hall. Elsenham was also home to lavender fields and before turning their attention to jam manufacturing the factory produced lavender water!

In addition to the fascinating views of the jam factory and its employees from the early days to its final closure Mike handed round examples of packaging-including the distinctive well remembered pots used for ‘Gentleman’s Relish’ also known as patum peperum.

Our December meeting took the form of a festive afternoon tea provided by members of the committee two of whom also provided the entertainment. The theme being a tribute to the much-loved Joyce Grenfell. Judy Colliver performed two of her monologues. The first was entitled “Useful and acceptable gifts” which was the first that Joyce Grenfell wrote-based on the character of a WI speaker giving her suggestions for gifts that could be made at home using re-cycled items and the second was set in a nursery school. Andrea Fitt gave a brief overview of Joyce Grenfell’s life and work and the members heard two of her songs ‘old thyme dancing’ and ‘I’ll see you today’.

One of Santa’s little helpers then appeared on the scene with a large sack containing beautifully wrapped gifts for each of our members. And so ended another interesting year for our members.

Martyn Lockwood will be the speaker at our February meeting to be held in Ugley Village Hall on Wednesday 21st February at 2pm. His subject the history of nursery rhymes. Why not come along and relive some childhood memories you would be most welcome!

Andrea Fitt 01279815922.

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HENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes (unapproved) Parish Council Meeting

Date: Thursday 7 December 2023

Time: 7.30pm Venue: OSCA, Henham

Present: Chair N. Baker, Cllrs S. Lee, P. Franklin, Z. Rutterford, J. Leech, M. Fisher, C. Walker, G LeCount, District Cllr B. Donald and Clerk M. Dacey

Declaration of interests: The Chair reminded Councillors of their duty to declare any relevant personal or pecuniary interests.

1. Apologies for Absence – District Cllr P Lees and County Cllr R. Gooding

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the 5 October 2023 meeting was approved and signed by the Chair. The meeting scheduled for 2 November 2023 was cancelled due to the local flooding caused by Storm Ciaran.

3. Matters Arising –

Cllr Francis has resigned due to moving out of the parish. The Parish Council thanks Cllr Francis for all his work as a councillor. The Parish Council welcomes Cllr Walker who is filling the position created some time ago (and before this year's elections) by a prior councillor's resignation.

4. Reports and Recommendations

(i) *Greens and Village Estate – Cllr. Baker:*

- 1 **Greens damage – (1) Erosion** - General greens erosion in the village causing other potholes. A review of the damage will be conducted in the spring. **(2) Construction damage by Hollybank** – Cllr Lee declared an interest and absented himself from any discussions. The shingle has now been colour matched, however, the greens remain damaged. Following a discussion, it was agreed the Chair would write to the owner of the property requesting repair to the greens now that the building works have been completed. **(3) Building materials on Greens by York Cottage** – it is noted that building materials that were on village greens have been removed, however there is damage to greens on the driveway. The Parish Council will monitor whilst works are still ongoing. **(4) Driving over Greens** – It was noted that there has been recent incidents of people driving over the greens and parking on the greens in the village, causing damage. Chair will write an article for the Dragon and will circulate a no parking letter to Cllrs to display on offending vehicles.
- 2 **Greens Bylaws** – Legal advice now received, Chair to review over the coming months as the procedure for changing the bylaws is complicated.
- 3 **Coronation commemoration** – A generous resident who is very skilled at ironmongery has kindly offered to design and make a sculpture to celebrate the coronation and will be making a start on this in the new year.
- 4 **Tree Inspection** – Report awaited – Chair has chased for this. Pond tree work completed successfully 6/10/23.
- 5 **Church works** – The Church has asked the developer to provide the Parish Council with its insurance documents which have now been provided. An update on the works by the PCC has previously been circulated to all councillors. Cllr Lee is liaising with the PCC regarding screening.
- 6 **Resurfacing The Row** – The Row path falls within the ownership of the Henham Parish Council as it is part of the greens. Cllr Leech will review the damage.

Village ponds/Woodland – (a) It was previously agreed that that the Chair and Cllr Fisher would consider options for possibly creating two new ponds. The Parish Council also previously discussed the management of PC owned Woodland in Mill Road. (b) **Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy** – Cllr Franklin attended a meeting on this and has circulated his meeting notes. There may be scope in considering how HPC could join this initiative to protect and increase local bio-diversity.



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Specifically moving forward with the woodland space opposite Hilltop yard and potentially in other locations around the Parish. Following a discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Franklin would liaise with ELNR regarding the woodland, Cllr Walker would liaise with the National Trust and Cllr Rutterford would liaise with our ecologist regarding suggestions for other entities which may like to take responsibility for the woodland.

Village Hall – (1) General – update by Cllr Fisher regarding some further works to the village hall, which have been put on hold whilst the historic subsidence insurance claim is ongoing. Following a discussion, Cllr Fisher proposed, seconded by Cllr LeCount, that in principle the Parish Council would be prepared to pay £4k for the rendering at the rear of the property, approved by Cllrs, Cllr Lee abstained. Clerk has paid the second instalment of the HPC grant (£2500) to the village hall. Concerns raised regarding visitor parking at village hall damaging greens, Cllr Fisher will raise this with the village hall committee. (2) **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. A final report from our solicitors is due before Christmas (3) **HPC Community Support Fund** – Nothing to report other than first payment of £186 has been made to Henham Village Hall in respect of grant awarded to Dinky Dragons hall hire costs. Positive feedback from Dinky Dragons has been circulated to all Cllrs.

PCSO – The PCSO will be available to discuss any resident concerns in the village shop between 10am-1am on December 11. Everyone welcome.

Speedwatch – Cllr Walker and the Henham parish speedwatch coordinator met with other Essex parish Speedwatch coordinators on Monday 6th November 2023 at Stansted Mountfitchet Fire Station, it was a useful and well attended event. Cllr Walker noted more volunteers are required to comply with insurance regulations. Cllr Walker also explained data collected over the past 17 months and there was a discussion about potentially moving the Wood End Green sign to a more effective location.

Management of Pledgdon Green – (a) Ownership of Common Land - A resident has previously contacted Cllr Rutterford about a fallen bough/tree on the common land which has fallen on their property. Legal advice re ownership/responsibilities of the common land has established that the Parish Council is not responsible for the common land. Cllr Rutterford and Cllr Baker had a meeting to review the legal advice and will liaise with our solicitors seeking further clarification on a couple of points. **(b) Conservation Area Status** - Broxton Parish Council is exploring whether the Brick End Road area could become a Conservation Area and have asked whether Henham Parish Council would be interested in splitting the costs (initially £1,000- £1,500 plus VAT) into extending the proposed conservation area to include to the Pledgdon Green area. Following a discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Rutterford would consult with local residents in her capacity as a private individual before any decision is made by the Henham Parish Council.

Website – The new website is up and running <https://henham-pc.gov.uk> . The clerk has now set up each Cllr with a new gov.org email address. It was previously agreed that Cllrs would try out the new email system before deciding on a policy for email use. On the whole the majority of Cllrs are finding the new system easy to use, some external IT support will be provided to those Cllrs requiring assistance with setting it up.

Photography competition – The Parish Council thanks everyone for their entries, which were of a very high standard indeed. All entries were shown to councillors and judged on an anonymous basis. It was agreed that the Winner for each category would receive a £50 Amazon voucher and the Runner Up a £20 Amazon Voucher. The Clerk will organise this. The winners for each category are:

- AGES 4-11 – Winner Olivia Hawker - Runner up Silas Rhodes
- AGES 12-18 – No entries received
- AGE 18 AND ABOVE – Winner Carli Pope - Runner up Vicki Bambridge



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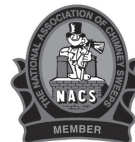


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Village Broadband – Openreach and Gigaclear both have plans to bring Ultrafast Broadband to Village. Both intend to hold open days in the village in near future. The Parish Council has a responsibility to ensure residents are fully informed of both endeavours and have the information to make an informed decision that suits them: (1) **Openreach** - The Parish Council has been approached by Openreach regarding increasing broadband speeds - The UK Government has launched a campaign through DSIT to support rural communities who don't currently have access to Ultrafast Full Fibre Broadband, and where there are no current plans to build. They have made vouchers available to eligible residential and commercial premises which can be used towards the cost of providing the fibre infrastructure. The vouchers need to be pledged to a registered network build supplier. Openreach is one of the Government's registered network build suppliers and have helped hundreds of local communities across the UK get high-speed broadband. So, in partnership with Government funding, Openreach could bring Ultrafast Full Fibre Broadband to communities using these vouchers. The vouchers are free, but recipients are expected to order an Ultrafast Full Fibre Broadband service from a supplier of their choice once service is live, as part of the terms and conditions. Openreach held a well attended open day on 5th December 2023 in the village hall 12-3pm for residents. (2) **Gigaclear** - Cllr Franklin continues to chase Gigaclear to repair the damaged box on OML which residents have repaired at the own expense and are seeking recompense from Gigaclear (Complaint Case Number: 01370719). Gigaclear are currently in the village installing their infrastructure. The Chair has written to Gigaclear seeking assurance that damage to the greens will be repaired.

Airport Parking – Cllrs LeCount and Franklin attended a UDC meeting on 2/11/23 to discuss the problem of airport parking in our area. Cllr Rutterford previously informed Cllr Franklin that there are airport parking issues on Bedwell Road (in Elsenham parish) which is preventing a local farmer (based in Henham parish) from accessing his fields to harvest. This has been reported to UDC Enforcement team to investigate. However, if the vehicle is taxed and insured and not causing a “day to day” obstruction or parked where there is a parking restriction this is not an offence. UDC Planning enforcement will pursue unapproved car park sites. Stansted Airport have a £200k fund to help with this issue but UDC have to enable a procedure for obtaining and using it. Some communication links for residents and Parish Councils may be forthcoming, however, there was little of immediate assistance on offer to the Parishes’ adjoining the airport who suffer greatly from the off-airport parking scourge.

D Day June 2024 celebrations – A resident and his team have kindly volunteered to organise an event to be held on Saturday 22nd June 2024, 1940's theme with a band, BBQ, army tanks. This event will not be run by the Parish Council nor will it have any responsibility other than to advise on Health and Safety aspects, which Cllr Franklin has kindly agreed to deal with. Following a discussion Cllrs agreed a contribution towards the event: £850 plus VAT for the band, £800 plus VAT for the toilet hire and £200 for the bins.

Christmas Tree – The Parish Council thanks the volunteers for their assistance with installing the village tree on 3 December. The Chair will organise dismantling the tree in the new year.

Stansted/Elsenham Surgery merger – All patients have received a direct communication from the surgery about the proposed merger. Update from Cllr LeCount who will circulate edited minutes from the latest patient liaison group meeting.

(ii) *Finance*

<u>Receipts</u>		
<u>From Whom</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
UDC	precept	£20, 570.00

UK Power	Wayleave			£17.58
L Lambe	Cemetery fees			£525.00
<u>To Whom</u> <u>(Invoice no.)</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Total</u>
M Dacey	October Salary	£462.30	£0.0	£462.30
Pat Doughty	School Lane bench repair	£60.00	£0.0	£60.00
Treecology (01867)	Pond trees work	£3,580.00	£716.00	£4,296.00
M Dacey	Quarterly Working from Home allowance	£78.00	£0.0	£78.00
PA Knott (62241)	Grass cut 4/10 & 18/10	£910.00	£0.0	£910.00
The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	4 x large poppies	£40.00	£0.0	£40.00
The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	HPC wreath	£25.00	£0.0	£25.00
PA Knott (62258)	Final grass cut	£455.00	£0.0	£455.00
JRB Enterprise Ltd (26171)	Dog poo bags	£66.64	£13.33	£79.97
M Dacey	November Salary	£462.30	£0.0	£462.30
HM Revenue & Customs	Employer Tax payment	£440.83	£0.0	£440.83
SW Transport Planning Ltd (0123)	Transport advice re Four Winds OML	£270.00	£54.00	£324.00
Henham Village Hall (#1012)	HPC community grant towards Dinky Dragons Village Hall hire costs	£186.00	£0.0	£186.00
Ricki Shelsher (1095)	Village window and signs cleaning	£50.00	£0.0	£50.00
N Baker	Refund for internal auditor wine and village Christmas tree star	£44.09	£0.0	£44.09
M Dacey	November Salary	£462.30	£0.0	£462.30
BIT Solutions Limited (28575)	IT fees for clerk's website/email set up	£55.00	£11.00	£66.00

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. This is ongoing.

2023-2024 Accounts – Q1 and Q2 Accounts for 23/24 have been submitted by the clerk to Cllr Fisher for review and approval.

2024-2025 Draft Budget/Expenditure Forecast and Precept discussion for setting of Precept – deadline 19 January 2024. The Clerk distributed a draft budget and draft expenditure forecast to all councillors for their appraisal during November 2023. Councillors were previously advised by the clerk to consider the draft expenditure forecast for Henham for the 2023-2024 period and this would help them arrive at an income requirement for the coming financial year. Having increased the precept for two years running, the precept was held last year as the Parish Council was aware of the cost of living crisis. Following a discussion Cllr Fisher proposed that the precept is held this year at its current level, seconded by Cllr LeCount, approved nem con. Chair to write an article for the Dragon.

(iii) Planning and Developments –

- **UTT/23/0713/OP** - Outline Planning Application, With All Matters Reserved Except Scale & Access, for the erection of up to 7 dwellings and associated work, Land West Of Old Mead Road The Parish Council previously objected to a previous application and have submitted an objection. This has been called in by District Cllr Lees. Nothing to report.
- **UTT/23/1732/FUL** – proposed Change of use of paddock to residential and construction of 3 no. residential dwellings, Tudor Hall Pledgdon Green. Cllr Rutterford declared an interest and absented herself from any discussions. This has been called in by District Cllr Lees. The Planning Sub Committee have submitted an objection with a further evidence submitted on 31/8/23. Nothing to report.
- **UTT/23/2735/FUL** – proposed residential development containing 7 no. dwellings along with access, carparking, landscaping and associated infrastructure, Land at Old Mead Road
- **UTT/23/2901/HHF** – proposed solar panels installed on main house and garage roof, The Old Stables Pledgdon Green Farm. Cllr Rutterford declared an interest and absented herself from any discussions.

Breaches: Continuing breaches at Cedar Cottage-Cllr Lee declared an interest and absented himself from discussions. Nothing to report.

Investigation into alleged breach- alleged airport parking at Railway car park, Old Mead Road District Cllr Lees to make further enquiries as to planning permission for parking. Nothing to report.

Investigation into alleged breach-without planning permission. The importation of waste material at land adjacent to Pennington Hall , Henham road , Elsenham CM22 6DH- UDC's Planning Enforcement Team has investigated a referral regarding the alleged breach of planning control at the above mentioned address, reference ENF/22/0043/C. The Council issued an enforcement notice which required the following actions to be carried out: a) Cease, and do not resume, the importation, depositing, sorting and spreading of waste material on the Land; b) Remove all the waste material and the earth bund located in the area hatched blue on the attached plan without redistribution within the existing site; c) Restore the land in the area hatched blue on the attached plan to its condition prior to the commencement of the unauthorised development. UDC confirm that compliance checks have been carried out to the property and the notice has largely been complied with. UDC has now closed the file. The notice will remain on the land hereafter.

Appeals: nothing to report

Developments: Mill Road Development : nothing to report.

Bloor – UTT/23/2063/DFO – nothing to report. The next liaison meeting is in January, Cllr Franklin to attend.

Decisions:

- **UTT/23/2316/CLP**- Application Certificate of Lawfulness for an outbuilding in the rear garden of The Fuchsias, Old Mead Lane– Refused by UDC.
- **UTT/23/1382/FUL** – proposed erection of a new detached 4 bedroom dwelling, Four Winds Old Mead Lane – Cllr Franklin has withdrawn from meetings regarding this application on grounds of personal interest. Planning Sub Committee obtained the advice of our transport consultant and a traffic counter survey (equipment was subsequently vandalised) which has been submitted together with the Parish Council’s objection. The Chair previously asked our District Cllrs to call in this application. Our transport consultant has submitted a report of further transport objections – Refused by UDC

(iv) Highways

OMR-OML – Nothing to report other than Update from Cllr LeCount re recent HGV use of OMR and Toot Toot bridge. Elsenham Parish Council have confirmed they are not monitoring the waste lorries, however, it is noted the weight limit uphill on Grove Hill and the width limit on New Road and across Ugley Green are not enforced. A resident is looking into enforcing the weight limit along OMR. Cllr LeCount to attend a meeting with local residents in January 2024.
Mill Road/School Road yellow lines – Nothing to report.

Toot Toot bridge – Nothing to report.

Roads by Church – Essex Highways have now resurfaced the roads by the Church/Farm greens.

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. 0800 7312385

5. Correspondence

Sent/Received: resident re anti-social behaviour; printers re Dragon printing, Openreach re broadband Planning Applications - see 4(iii) above

- Clerk – approximately 250 emails in October 2023 and November 2023.

6. Waste and Minerals Development Issues – Nothing to report.

7. SAW (Stop Stansted Expansion) – Cllr Franklin has volunteered to attend SAW meetings on behalf of the Parish Council, taking this role over from Cllr Rutterford. Cllrs agreed Cllr Franklin has authority to vote on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr Franklin attended a meeting for SAW members on 29/11/23. There was a Q&A on the proposal to convert the organisation to a Trust and put it into “hibernation” with funds of about £90K. As there are no takers to replace the existing team there were no other realistic options tabled. The motion was carried nem com. In the future, over the next 5 years, local parish councils are expected to provide replacement trustees for the initial 5 who will be the current executive committee. The Trust objectives will mirror those of SAW and the funds would be available to fight any future undesirable expansion at the airport. Subject to trustee scrutiny. A members letter has now been circulated confirming the situation.

8. Governance – The Parish Council Standing Orders and Financial Regulations have been circulated by the Clerk to all Councillors for review in the coming months.

9. Local Plan –Documents related to the local plan can be found at: www.uttlesford.gov.uk/new-local-plan. Discuss draft Local Plan which has now been published on the UDC website. Chair’s letter regarding the incorrect allocation of 200 Bloor homes to Elsenham Parish has been sent to UDC and was acknowledged by UDC but unfortunately no amendments made to the published draft local plan. Elsenham Parish Council is supporting the fact that the 200 houses have been wrongly allocated to their parish. Sub-planning Committee has recommended to councillors that legal advice is sought now in readiness should UDC not reallocate the 200 homes in the Henham Parish, potential legal fees would be £1000-1500 plus VAT plus costs for a junior barrister for expert legal advice, this recommendation was agreed by Cllrs. There was also a discussion regarding SAW concerns raised in connection with areas within Countryside Protection Zone being included within the Local Plan, but it is the view of the Parish Council that our duty is towards our own residents and the protection of our village against spurious developments which is a huge risk should the Local Plan not be finalised.

10. Henham SOV 100 Club draw –

J Franklin conducted the October draw. She drew from a black bag containing all current lottery balls:

1st Prize Number 68 (Ken Sammons) £232. 2nd Prize Number 112 (D Hattee) £112

3rd Prize Christmas Bonus Ball Accumulator £56 Cumulative total £616

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.

District Cllr B Donald conducted the November draw. She drew from a black bag containing all current lottery balls:

1st Prize Number 114 (L Hands) £232. 2nd Prize Number 10 (L Peake) £112

3rd Prize Christmas Bonus Ball Accumulator (J Channing) Cumulative total £672

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.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 1st February 2024, 7:30pm at OSCA. Everyone Welcome. There was no meeting in January 2024.

Mareike Dacey, Clerk

District Councillor’s Report January 2024

Mid December, we were disappointed to receive a letter from Michael Gove regarding the Local Plan. It told us nothing new –Uttlesford has not updated its Local Plan since 2005. The last submitted plan as you know, was unsound and not good enough to be tinkered with according to the Inspectors. We are some way into rectifying this, having voted at full Council on 30th October to submit the draft Local Plan to a full public consultation. Mr Gove and his team also know this, so the demand that we send him a timetable for submitting a Local Plan within 12 weeks is perplexing as that timetable (known technically as our Local Development Plan) was published months ago, and we were able to send him the link within moments of receiving his letter demanding it!

We look forward to collaborating with all councillors through 2024 to refine and improve our Reg 18 draft plan into a stronger, better, and evidence-based Reg 19 final plan for us to vote on this coming summer. There will be opportunities over the coming

months to see and consider all the consultation responses, as well as to explore in detail (and amend as necessary) policy chapters on vitally important issues like affordable housing, infrastructure, and biodiversity, as well of course of substantially reducing the housing site allocations once we know how many additional homes have been approved between April 2023 and April 2024, and can therefore come off our allocations target.

All consultation responses will be published, and any questions will be answered and published.

We would like to thank you for your patience and understanding regarding our refuse collections. “Crews have been dealing with a much higher than anticipated volume being left out for collection over the festive season. They have braced inclement weather and now Crews have to travel to Braintree to empty their full trucks after Essex County Council moved the site from Dunmow, meaning it takes crews longer to get back on the road. Our crews continue to smile and have dog biscuits in their pockets.

Having an airport in the district, means that we have people fleeing real crisis in their home countries, land here in our District. It was an honour and a privilege for Petrina to attend a reception to thank the exceptional volunteers, community partners and community and public sectors who helped at the airport following the Ukrainian and Sudanese Crises. Eduard Fesko the Ukrainian Ambassador attended and gave a moving speech, about the realities of war. The compassion for our neighbours and the selfless work, time, and kindness that members of our district have demonstrated is something to be proud of.

We still have monies available from our Ward Initiative Fund.

Our Surgery this month will be Thursday 22nd February 18.30 OSCA Henham.

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Bianca Donald cllrdonald@uttlesford.gov.uk 07941880279

Petrina Lees cllrlees@uttlesford.gov.uk 07713074656

Toothpaste Recycling Bin -now closed

Thank you to everyone who has dropped off toothpaste recycling over the last 4 years. We have collected 153kg raising monies for Essex and Herts Air Ambulance. Sadly, Terracycle are now closing this scheme. Last Collection was 31/1/23. Many thanks to Clare Hardy who has transported the collections to the Terracycle (I had the pleasure of having the cleanest smelling bin the district) Boots offer a recycling service in store where you can earn points for recycling. Many thanks for your support. Please do keep recycling.

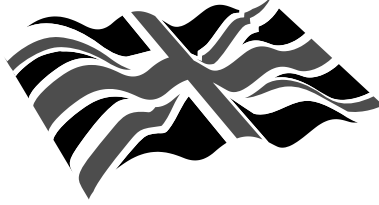
The Village Calendar 2024

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

February			
Thursday	1st	Henham Parish Council Meeting	OSCA 7.30pm
Saturday	3rd	Book sale (cash only)	OSCA 10am – 4pm
Saturday	3rd	Tennis Club Quiz Night	Village hall 7 for 7.30pm start
Saturday	17 th	Afternoon Tea	OSCA 2pm - 4pm
Thursday	22 nd	DC surgery	OSCA 6.30pm
March			
Monday	11th	Tennis Club AGM	OSCA 8pm
Saturday	To be confirmed	Afternoon Tea	OSCA 2pm-4pm
April			
Saturday	20th	Afternoon Tea	OSCA 2pm-4pm
Sunday	21st	Tennis Pick'n mix finals	Tennis courts
May			
Saturday	18th	Afternoon Tea	OSCA 2pm-4pm
Sunday	19th	Tennis Club Open Day	Tennis courts 2pm
June			
Saturday	9th	Henham Open Gardens	
Saturday	15th	Afternoon Tea	OSCA 2pm-4pm
Saturday	22nd	D-Day Fete	Wood End Green
July			
Saturday	20th	Afternoon Tea	OSCA 2pm-4pm
August			
Saturday	To be confirmed	Afternoon Tea	OSCA 2pm-4pm
September			
Saturday	21st	Afternoon Tea	OSCA 2pm-4pm
October			
Saturday	19th	Afternoon Tea	OSCA 2pm-4pm
December			
Saturday	7th	Afternoon Tea	OSCA 2pm-4pm

Village Defibrillator Our village defibrillator is located by the side of the main entrance to OSCA. If you need to use it, dial 999 and the emergency services will give you a code for its' release. They will also stay on the line to support you. Once it is switched on, there will be clear and simple instructions.

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Village Diary Regular clubs, classes and meetings

Mondays

9.00 and 10.00	am	Pilates	Vision Fitness
9.30-11.00	am	Dinky Dragons (term time only)	Village Hall
10.00 - 12.00	am	Tennis, Rusty Racquets	Henham Tennis Courts
3.30 - 4.15	pm	Junior tennis	Henham Tennis Courts
6.45 - 8.00	pm	Springbok Classes	HUSCH
7.00 - 9.00	pm	Table Tennis Club	OSCA

Tuesdays

9.15 - 11.15	am	Badminton Club	HUSCH
9.30 - 10.30	am	Pilates	Vision Fitness
5.15 - 6.15	pm	Beavers (term time only)	Ugley Village Hall
5.30 - 6.15	pm	Street & Com. Dance: Age 8-10	OSCA
6.15 - 7.20	pm	Street & Com. Dance: Age 11+	OSCA
6.30- 7.45	pm	Cubs (term time only)	Ugley Village Hall
7.00 - 8.00	pm	Pilates	Online
7.20 - 8.20	pm	Adult Dance Class	OSCA

Wednesdays

3.30 - 4.00	pm	Junior Tennis	Henham Tennis 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
7.00 - 9.00	pm	Badminton Club	HUSCH

Thursdays

9.00 and 10.00	am	Pilates	OSCA
10.30 - 11.30	am	Little Fishes (term time only)	Church Hall
1.45 - 2.45	pm	Tots/Preschool tennis	Henham Tennis courts
3.30 - 4.00	pm	Junior Tennis	Henham Tennis Courts
5.30 - 6.15	pm	Karate Beginners (green)	Village Hall
6.00 - 7.15	pm	Cubs (term time only)	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	Tennis Ladies' 2 nd Team	Henham Tennis Courts
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Saturdays

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

Sundays

2.00 - 4.00	pm	Tennis Ladder	Henham Tennis Courts
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There are also various classes at the Vision Fitness Gym, please visit their website for further details, visionfitnesshenham.co.uk



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

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

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

Church News



Reverend Louis Wilson writes....

Another year, another BBC Sports Personality of the Year. 2023 saw the 70th edition and completed a hat-trick of women as Mary Earls followed previous winners Beth Mead and Emma Raducanu (two footballers and a tennis player).

As a nation we love sport (especially watching it) so at our recent Christmas Morning Service, we considered an unlikely theological question: If God were a sportsman, what sport would he play?!

Cricketer Stuart Broad took second place in the award this year, and a cricketer last won in 2019 (Ben Stokes). Perhaps if God played sport, he'd be a cricketer.

But think about what happens in cricket: the batsman tries to hit the ball; the bowler tries to get you out; and the fielders try to catch you out. Some people think that's what God is like: trying to catch us out, trying to do us down. But it's not true. God made this world, and he loves what he has made. He's not trying to get us out. So, it seems God is not a cricketer! What about tennis? The players serve. They return. The Bible says that Jesus came to serve and that one day he will return. Maybe God would be a tennis player. Or maybe he'd play football. One person shoots, somebody else saves. Jesus came to save. His name means God saves. Maybe God would be a footballer.

But actually, there's something else. Just once in 70 years has this sport produced a winner of Sports Personality of the Year. The clue is in John's Gospel chapter 1, verse 12. Speaking about Jesus, John says: *to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.*

I wonder if you can think of a sport where someone wants to pass you something, and you can pick it up? In fact, you must receive it almost like a present, a gift.

The sport is rugby (and its only winner was Jonny Wilkinson 20 years ago). You see, God has something that he wants to pass to us: the right to be his child. The Bible says that we are not his children by right of birth: his creatures yes, but not his children. To be his child is something he must pass to us, and it is something he yearns to pass to us.

And it is something we must receive as a gift or a present. And receiving God's pass means to believe in Jesus. In the Bible, to believe is to trust something enough to let it change your life. The gift God wants us to receive is Jesus. And when we do that, when we believe in his name, there is this incredible promise that we will become children of God: Children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God -a permanent, miraculous, wonderful change of status.

I have absolutely no authority for this at all....but if God were a sportsman, perhaps he'd play rugby.

May I wish you a very Happy New Year, **Louis**

Church events in our villages

Church Services

Sunday 4th February

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

Sunday 11th February

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

Wednesday 14th February

- 11:00** Ash Wednesday Prayer Book
Communion Service, Ugley
Church

Sunday 18th February

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

Sunday 25th February

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

For information on all these events,
please contact office@heuchurch.co.uk

* **HUSCH:** Henham & Ugley School
Hall

Other regular events

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

(Y1-Y6) Starts at EVH then on to
Old Franks, Elsenham, 10.15am
Sundays: 11th

Pathfinders (Y6-Y9)

HUSCH*, Henham 6.00pm - leave
from service to meet in the Church
Hall, Henham. Sundays: 4th & 11th

Crammin' (Y10-Y13)

HUSCH*, Henham 6.00pm - leave
from service to meet at OSCA,
Henham. Sundays: 4th & 11th

MID-WEEK AND SATURDAY:

Start the Week with Prayer
Church Hall, Henham 9.30am
Mondays: 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th

Seekers After School Bible Club
(Y3-Y4) Old Frank's 3.20pm
Mondays: 5th, 12th & 26th

Christian Play (Y1-Y2)
Rowan House, Elsenham 3.15pm
Tuesdays: 6th & 13th & 27th

Little Fishes Pre-School Group
Church Hall, Henham 10.30am
Thursday: 1st, 8th, 15th & 29th

Little Fishes Pre-School Group
Elsenham Memorial Hall 10.00am
Fridays: 2nd, 9th & 16th

Church Lunch Club
Elsenham Memorial Hall 12.30pm
Fridays: (2nd & 4th Friday of the
month): 9th & 23rd

Afternoon Tea 2pm 17/2/24
OSCA, Henham

From The Parish Registers

Funerals:

- A Service of Thanksgiving at Elsenham Church on 3 January 2024, Roshan Banatvala, aged 89 years, formerly of Church End, Henham.
- A Service of Thanksgiving at Elsenham Church on 17 January 2024, Margaret Rose May Sucking (Peg), aged 91 years, formerly of Hargrave House, Stansted.

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

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

In Memoriam Roshan Banatvala



Roshan Banatvala, a longstanding resident of Henham and influential schoolteacher died on 9 December 2023 aged 89.

Roshan moved to Henham, with her husband Jangu and two small children, Nicholas and Jonathan in 1965. Christopher and Emma were born a little later. Unlike many of their friends who moved away, Roshan and Jangu, who were married for 64 years, remained in the village - their home becoming in many ways a second home to their nine grandchildren.

Roshan was born in Bombay in 1934. Her childhood home was a stone's throw from the Gateway of India. From her apartment she watched Independence play out in 1947 with Ghandi, Mountbatten and Nehru all passing under her balcony. After joining her aunt teaching some of Mumbai's poorest communities she decided, aged 10, to be a teacher.

At 15, Roshan came to England with her family. She said right from the start that she took to it like “a duck to water” and never looked back. After completing her schooling, she enrolled at Whitelands College, now Roehampton University, to train as a primary schoolteacher. During her 40-year career, she taught at many local schools and was middle-head at Waterside in Bishop’s Stortford.

A highly regarded teacher, she was at the forefront of education; knowing that individual children have individual needs. A former pupil said that Roshan was “the first teacher [she] ever respected” and “remembered the security [she] felt in having her as a teacher and knowing that she would understand whatever she taught”. Often described as “strict but fair” by her pupils. She would bring this discipline to home life, where she would get her own children to recite times tables up to the bath and rightly admonish them for substandard work! Roshan kept up with many of her pupils and for one this meant fulfilling a promise made to an 8-year-old child to take her to the opera... some 15 years later.

Roshan had a strong but quiet faith: baptised and confirmed whilst living in Henham. Her faith was hugely important in coming to terms when Emma died in 1998. As many in the village will testify, Emma was one of Henham’s real characters – and on many occasions stretched Roshan’s parental skills to the limit!

Her greatest quality was inclusiveness and equality. Welcoming friends into the family. Roshan loved Henham, its social life and entertaining such as the Boxing Day hunt. Her cooking was legendary - 8 puddings for 10 guests. She had a wide range of interests, from oil painting to silversmithing (with her own hallmark). She enjoyed literature, theatre, and music (especially opera and orchestral music, but also anything ABBA).

Her funeral was held at St Mary’s in Elsenham, because Henham church is undergoing renovation. Roshan’s family, in true schoolmistress fashion, were left clear instructions on how the service should be conducted, with a message that the congregation should “sing up”.

The grandchildren all recounted Roshan’s love, support, and generosity. Often bringing them together, the relationships she fostered were “the gift to us all”. She even tried to delay a West End show, because not all her grandchildren had arrived!

The service was one of celebration, with family and friends from Henham and beyond, saying goodbye to her in a packed church.

If anyone would like a copy of the tributes given to Roshan Banatvala at the service, please email chris.banatvala@gmail.com.

Chris Banatvala

Elsenham Farmer's Market

The Team at the Elsenham Farmer's Market would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy, healthy, and enjoyable 2024 and we really look forward to seeing you at the Market at some point!

The Market is now running from 12.30-2.30pm on the last Saturday of every month, but just to make things easier, these are the dates for the first half of 2024: - **27th JANUARY, 24th FEBRUARY, 30th MARCH, 27th APRIL, 25th MAY, 29th JUNE.**

We will have many of our fabulous regular sellers, such as the delicious Mapuldor sourdough bread, the brilliant Mel with her preserves, chutneys and oils, the Flying Pig Company's local meat just perfect for the weekend, the most amazing cakes and fresh coffee from Coco Fleur, even your dog is catered for with Sid n Ivy's superb homemade dog treats!

You will be able to buy eggs, honey, flowers, homemade savouries perfect for lunch, fish and other frozen yummy products, British cheeses, wild local game, sustainable cleaning products, homemade fresh & natural juice shots, microgreens just bursting with flavour, and we are constantly on the lookout for more goodies.

Come along and enjoy our wonderful Market, and help support these local, fledgling businesses. All proceeds from the Market go to local charities. No charge for entry, you just need to enjoy and immerse yourself in all the gorgeous produce!

The Elsenham Farmers Market Team

Elsenham Community Choir

Did you know that singing can promote self-esteem, build self-confidence, support social skill development, promote social inclusion, engage the emotions and most importantly, enable people of all ages to come together to meaningfully create something wonderful?

It's the New Year, so hey, why not try something new? Come and join us the first and third Tuesday of every month at 7.00pm-8.30pm in Elsenham Village Hall.

There are no auditions at our choir, just laughter, friendship, chocolate in the break and we even manage to squeeze in a bit of singing!! Please just turn up or find us on our Elsenham Community Choir Facebook page.

Everyone welcome.



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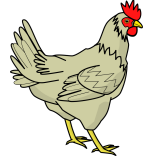
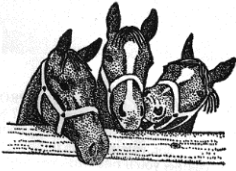
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First of all..... **HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

Well, 2023 whizzed by in a flurry of animal babies, train rides, lovely visitors, campers and mud!!!

Can you believe that we still have lambs being born and they are so cute, they simply must not be missed!

It is very muddy on the farm at the moment, so if you (or your children!!) love jumping in muddy puddles, then Daisy May's Farm is the place for you. Come on down!!

So, **get your wellies out** because you just know it's going to be muddy and come and enjoy the Woodland Trail, our arts and crafts, the play area, the Snack Shack, Ollies, train rides, but most of all.... **our lovely animals!**

Blow those cobwebs away with a visit to our farm and see all that has been going on over the winter and more importantly, what we have planned for 2024.

Please make sure you keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates and to see what is going on.

So once again, thank you so much for your support and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

Contacts for Hall Bookings

Church Hall Isobel Brooks 01279 850354

OSCA Judy Hughes 07752 292479/ 850948

Village hall Elaine Randall 07950 869382 or email info@henhamvillagehall.co.uk

HUSCH to book please email admin@henhamugley.essex.ch.uk or (in term time only) phone 01279 850213

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Henham Open Gardens

Following our very enjoyable & successful opening in 2022 we have now agreed to go ahead with the event again next year on the 9th June

We invite residents including any previous participants who would like to open up their garden to contact us.

Further information please contact:

Amanda Mower 07846 010132 or

Gerry Bigland 850373 email: gands1987@gmail.com

All proceeds will go to a worthy charity yet to be decided.

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Dear Villagers,

A Happy New Year to you all. Thank you for all your support last year particularly those that continue to volunteer in many capacities across the school. I am very thrilled to continue our journey together. Working with and within the community is a huge part of my plans and we are very welcoming of anybody who wishes to be involved more with the school.

Last term was a very exciting one. We had several special days which allowed children to experience things that may not have experienced before and from inspirational people that they might not interact with usually.

We had a very exciting day exploring plays of William Shakespeare. The children dressed up in Elizabethan clothing and they acted out A Midsummer Night's Dream, Romeo and Juliet and Macbeth. We had a visit from paralympic world champion skier, Sean Rose, who inspired children with the message that you can always overcome challenges in life, bounce back and still achieve your dreams through motivation and self-belief.

Louis the Vicar has visited us and has delivered both Harvest and Christmas assemblies. The children also enjoyed making Christingles in class and Louis explained what they represent as part of his Christmas message.

As I said before, we are very keen to work with the villagers to improve our community. If you can offer us any particular skills or volunteer to help with projects, we would love to hear from you. If you would like a tour of the school, I would be really happy to accommodate this and would love for any villagers to attend any school events you see advertised. You are always more than welcome.

Watch this space in future articles for more detail on a key point in the refreshed school strategy that uses our environment and villagers to offer skills and experience to enhance what the school has to offer its' pupils.

Wishing you all well in the forthcoming year,

Mr Benjamin Davey. Headteacher.



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Henham and Ugley school are looking for Volunteers.

Dear villagers,

We are still looking for volunteers to work in the school office which is a very busy and important function to ensure the smooth running of the school. We are looking for a rota of volunteers that could offer time each afternoon during term time to help in the school office. Between 1pm and 3.30pm we need help on reception to welcome visitors, answer the telephone, deal with parent queries at the end of the school day and perform some admin tasks. We are looking for a group of volunteers that can work the rota between themselves.

Unfortunately, due to confidentiality and GDPR we are unable to accept any volunteers that are current parents at our school.

If you are interested and have some time to offer, please reach out to us at volunteer@henhamugley.essex.sch.uk.

Mary Compton & Jo Goldsmith

Co-Chairs, Henham and Ugley Primary and Nursery School

Stansted Hall & Elsenham Cricket Club

Firstly, we would like to wish you all a happy, healthy, and peaceful New Year.

After a very successful season in 2023 the club now looks forward to a special year – 50 years at our Stansted House ground. The club was founded in 1947 as Burton End Cricket Club playing in the grounds of Stansted Hall. However, the club was forced to move ground in September 1973 due to the building of the M11. A pitch was offered to the club by the then owner of Stansted House, Brian Thornton. The first match was played at the ground in 1974 against a Robin Hobbs XI which included a young Graham Gooch. The club is fortunate that Patrick Hearne and his family moved into Stansted House in the 1980's – a cricket enthusiast. Plans for celebrations are in hand and being finalised.

In the meantime, the club will be entering a 3rd XI in the Herts & Essex Border League with matches being played at Molehill Green. We are also entering the Essex Matchplay U16 competition. Therefore, we are looking for new players of all ages but especially U16 players who want to improve their cricket whilst playing against the best players in the county. Indoor nets begin in February if you are interested in joining, please contact me at david1.r.brown@gmail.com

David Brown

HENHAM TENNIS CLUB NEWS

FEBRUARY 2024

Tempus fugit! Can it really be that two whole months have elapsed since the last Dragon report! The turkey has been gobbled, the presents unwrapped and before we knew it, we were celebrating the next momentous occasion, yes you have already guessed: the Tennis Club annual Tinsel tournament. On an overcast morning play began promptly at 11am with 20 eager participants ready to take to the courts. Not a party hat was in sight as the element of competitive play began. Alas, even before the first matches (consisting of 5 games) had been completed the inevitable drizzle arrived. Undeterred, play continued until the drizzle became steady rain. Fortunately, thanks to our chairman Simon Price, the mulled wine flowed and thanks also to all those who donated sausage rolls, mince pies and even a Christmas cake! It had not been a great year weatherwise for Fun Tournaments but socially they were certainly top of the class.



Pre-Christmas there were a couple of annual social events. The Rusty Rackets Ladies lunch was, as always, a fun filled festive occasion as depicted in the photo.

It seems rather a long time ago, but our Tennis Club Christmas Dinner took place at The Cock on the first weekend of December! Those members who were able to attend were treated to an evening of good humour, lively social chit chat and an excellent traditional Christmas meal (with alternatives for those who chose to wait for the 25th for such fare). An air of mystery surrounded the seating arrangements this year as all participants drew a number out of a hat to decide where they would be seated. Once settled, crackers were pulled, hats adorned, cracker jokes shared, and as this was a tennis club occasion, some modern interpretations of tennis technical terms! I managed to salvage a couple at the end of the evening, for example: What is the meaning of Return of Service? Answer – sending back your food at the restaurant! What is the meaning of Cross Court? Answer – Where you get a severe legal reprimand! Of course, the evening would not be complete without the eagerly awaited ‘speech’ from the club chairman, Simon Price. If only I could remember what he said!! In conclusion, members were invited to write a limerick with a tennis theme content. Inevitably there were plenty of contributions, two of which I feel I can safely share. Apologies to anyone who feels that they might fit the bill, so to speak!

*One of our first team ladies called Sally
Is not one to dilly or dally
With one good hip
The other gives her gyp
She can still win a really long rally.*

*Our chair is a man of some wealth
Who will always drink to your health
He tells bad jokes
Not always quite woke
But still makes a very cute elf.*

In all honesty they are “better when told and heard after a few glasses in a festive setting.”

If anyone feels like contributing a tennis themed limerick then please do contact me.

This winter's Pick 'n Mix has now reached the halfway stage. The new formula, which is being trialled this year is proving very popular providing an excellent excuse for a social catch up coupled with some friendly competitive tennis. A maximum of 16 players can compete on each occasion playing four 5 game matches. A total of 24 different players have played across our first two sessions! The competition consists of four mini tournaments (two Saturdays and two Sundays) played during the months of November, January, February and March, with Finals taking place as usual in April. Topping the leaderboard at the halfway stage are Brian Brooks, Richard Balls, Dave Reynolds and Matt Searson, closely followed by Maureen Hopkins and Isaac Wilson. The final two sessions are scheduled for Saturday 10th February and Sunday 3rd March. Let us hope that the current cold snap relents so that the matches can be played without interruption.

Looking to the future, the next event on the calendar is our popular QUIZ NIGHT which takes place on SATURDAY 3rd FEBRUARY in the Village Hall with guest Quizmaster Ian Thomas. An enthralling and entertaining evening awaits.

I know it's rather belated, but on behalf of Henham Tennis Club may we wish you all a Happy New Year and many hours of enjoyable tennis, without too many frustrating moments along the way! Remember, if you can keep on returning the ball to your opponent(s) then you are in with a chance of winning the point! Try to emulate Tim Henham; as John Lloyd commented: “He is one of the world's best returners in terms of getting the ball back. **John G Smith**

In The Garden

Hello again Dear Reader and a Happy New Year to you. I hope you were able to enjoy the festivities, despite all the doom and gloom we seem to be bombarded with these days. The weather these days seems to be a lot less predictable and a lot more extreme. Already this year we have seen very mild weather, alternating with extremely cold periods and also severe flooding. Even though we don't suffer as much as some from the flooding, the ground is completely waterlogged and therefore should be worked on as little as possible.

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

If you have a greenhouse and heated propagators, you can start your seed sowing program now. I always try to get an early start with my tomatoes to hopefully get an earlier crop. There are also many hardy annuals that can be started now. Busy Lizzies are a good example. Many people find them difficult to grow from seed, but after many different attempts, I seem to have found a method which works (fingers crossed)! Fill a seed tray with a good seed or multi-purpose compost. Sow the seeds finely all over the surface (broadcast), then cover with a light covering of vermiculite. Place the tray either in a heated propagator, or on a heat mat. If you are using a propagator, check regularly for germination and prick out as soon as the plants are big enough to handle. If you leave them for too long they will go spindly.

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

If you tend to use a hoe for weeding, be very careful at this time of year, as with the mild weather we have experienced over the past couple of winters, the spring bulbs are coming through somewhat earlier than one would expect and the last thing you want is to chop the tops of the plants as they come through.

If you haven't yet done so, you should be thinking about getting your lawnmower serviced. If you leave it until spring, you will probably have a seven or eight week wait, whereas now you will probably only have to wait two or three weeks.

I'm going to repeat one of my useful tips, as this is the time of year when you may well be thinking of sowing broad beans. As you well know. Dear Reader, Blackfly is probably the biggest scourge of the broad bean plant. Like Vampires, they suck the life blood out of the plants voraciously. An easy way to prevent this is to plant a few cloves of garlic in between the rows of beans. You won't smell the garlic unless the leaves are crushed, but the sensitive sense of smell of the blackfly will deter them and hopefully send them off to pastures new.

Make sure you keep bird feeders topped up, particularly in really cold spells. Birds expend most of their energy looking for food, so if they know there is a regular source close by, it helps them tremendously. It is also very important to make sure they have clean drinking water to hand, so make sure you keep bird baths clean.

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

I guess that's about it for this month, I don't want to over-excite you. Let's hope we get some decent weather so that we can get on with the preparations for spring. It's good to be back and I look forward to next month's article.

Norman Elson



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NEWS FROM THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

News for February 2024

I am writing this as volunteers work to clear the Gardens of fallen trees and boughs brought down by the torrential rains and winds at the beginning of January. Hopefully February will be seasonal with some cold weather, of course, but also with some of those lovely bright winter days on which it is a joy to be outside, seeing the early flowers emerge.

Of course, for us that means snowdrops, and with luck some aconites too. The snowdrops have spread hugely through the Gardens in recent years – partly because we have planted extra, but also because we have been careful to leave grass cutting till after the bulbs have replenished themselves and divided, producing extra bulbs; and after they have formed seeds, which apparently are planted unwittingly by ants carrying them into their nests!



We don't have as many aconites as we would like. Their bright yellow flowers make for such a cheery sight, often coming a bit before the snowdrops. They are native to Italy, Bulgaria, the Balkans, Turkey, and Iraq. I have read they were introduced to Britain in 1596 and were first recorded as being

naturalised in the wild in 1838. We have some longstanding clumps – I wonder when they were planted? But we have found it difficult to establish more. We keep trying though!!

Our open days for snowdrops are on Sunday 18, Thursday 22, Sunday 25 and Thursday 29 February and we have our fingers crossed that the snowdrops will be at their best then. Gates open at 11.00 and tickets will be purchasable in advance through our website or direct through www.Trybooking.com. Snowdrops in the green will be on sale. Please note that the gardens of Warwick House are not open to visitors on the Thursdays. For more information go to our website www.eastonlodge.co.uk

Jill Goldsmith



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REFUSE COLLECTION FOR FEBRUARY

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 8th, 22nd
GREEN BIN (recyclables)	Thursday 1st, 15th, 29th
GREEN GARDEN WASTE	Thursday 8th, 22nd

Village Shop & Post Office Opening Hours

Post Office:- currently open Mon, Wed & 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

All opening hours are subject to change and are entirely dependent on the availability of volunteer staff

Carol Elson is the editor for The March 2024 edition.

The Deadline for submitting articles is 12/2/2024.

Please send your contributions by email to henhamdragon@hotmail.com

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

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Village functions and charity fundraising events are advertised free, but we would invite large fundraising events to make a small donation to help with or printing costs. Preferential **annual rates** for advertising are available. Contact **Sheena Bigland**(01279850373) or **Jan King** on 01279850001 for details.

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