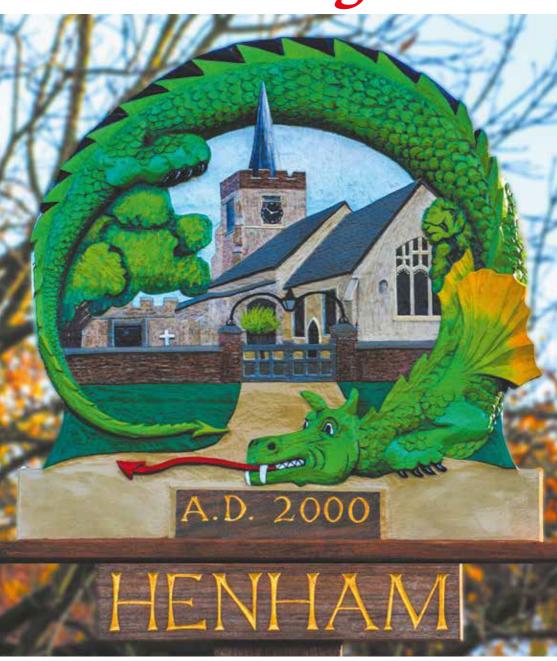
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March Dragon 2024





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3-4	Letters to the Editor	27.	The Gardens of Easton Lodge/
4-5	Advertising in the Dragon		Important Diary Date
5	OSCA News	28.	Newport & District Flower Club
6	Henham and Ugley School/	29.	Farmers' Market
	Contacts for Hall Bookings	30.	Daisy May's Farm
7-8.	District Councillor Report	31.	Ugley WI/
8.	A Resident's Lament		Saffron Walden Choral Society
9.	Henham & District Garden	32.	The Hundred Parishes Society
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10-11	In the Garden	34.	Events and Treatments
12-20	Henham Parish Council	35.	Gong Baths
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24-25	Church News		Club/Reporting Noisy Aircraft
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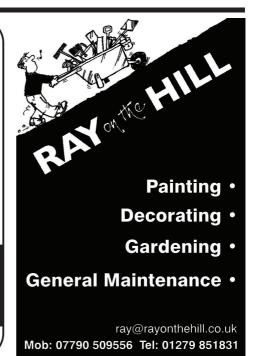
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Editorial

February 10th marked the beginning of the Chinese New Year: The Year of the Dragon.

The dragon is the only mythical creature in the twelve-year cycle. It represents power and prosperity and is anticipated to bring opportunities and exciting advances for all. With this in mind we hope that this will be a very good year for our magazine and our readers.

As Sheena Bigland explains (page 4) we rely on our advertisers to fund our magazine and we hope to fill all the available spaces so that we can prosper.

There are several articles this month that give new opportunities. Henham & District Gardening Society (page 9) has a full programme of events and exciting visits, Newport & District Flower Club are offering demonstrations and workshops (page 28) and Nicky Moore is offering a Gong Bath experience (page 35), to name but a few.

There also many other interesting reads, particularly Councillor Lee's report (page 7). It is good to know the official version of the waste bin debacle. You will see that on the Community Information page dates for the black bins and the recycling bins have been entered presuming things have returned to normal but, at the time of writing, there is no information on the Uttlesford website about when the garden waste will be collected.

On another note, the Dragon Team will be holding its AGM on **Wednesday 10th April at 7pm in OSCA**. Please come along if you are interested in joining us. We are always looking for potential editors, distributors and help with securing advertisements. Or just come along if you would like to know how we operate. You would be most welcome.

It only remains for me, on behalf of the Team, to wish you all a very Happy Easter, in this year of the Dragon.

Village Defibrillator

Our defibrillator is located by the side, main entrance to OSCA. If you need to use it a code will be issued by the emergency services for its release.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

Twenty Years Later or Home Thoughts from Abroad.

Pauline and I married in 1969 and enjoyed 34 years in Henham before moving in 2003 to West Herefordshire to be closer to our family and away from airport noise and the too busy south-east. We both loved living in Henham and have happy memories. Pauline missed her friends acquired through contacts at the village school, church, cricket club teas, local societies etc. She joined the W.I. and U3A at Kington travelling there in the teal blue Morris Traveller. She became frail and died in 2017 but we had still been able to enjoy holidays twice a year and were looking forward to Devon again in the June. She did not want to return to Henham but I have made an annual trip usually in March to keep in touch with friends and family.

I moved my office to Kington and continued there until 6 years ago when I sold the business and worked as a consultant two days a week for a further 3 years. Now fully retired I play golf on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings with a great bunch of seniors in glorious surroundings at over 1000 feet on Bradnor Hill near Kington but one does have to become hardened to the strong winds up there. On Tuesday and Thursday evenings I play bridge at two clubs. My remaining energy is devoted to half an acre of garden where I grow vegetables and fruit, cut hedges, weed too often and make large quantities of compost, recently I found a "nest" of baby grass snakes deep in a heap which I covered over again.

Richard (my son) has run Cambrian Safaris successfully for 12 years taking people for day and half day trips in a Land Rover Discovery, also 4 day trips for foreign tourists around south, mid and north Wales. Hester works part-time at the Devils Bridge waterfalls. Dylan, now 22 is a chef at probably the best hotel in mid-Wales Y Talbot at Tregaron. He restores BMW cars and is a computer expert. Bethan 20 is at Ingestre a top class equestrian centre near Stafford, she rides, teaches and competes in dressage competitions where she has been known to better the scores of her instructors.

My cat Toby is now 18 and provides purr. fect company becoming ever more affectionate and vocal (you have deserted me again) as the years go by.

I wonder how many remain in Vernon's Close from our time there, I am in touch with several who moved elsewhere.

Best Wishes, Peter Smith

Retirement on 31st March 2024

I would like to thank those villagers who have supported me over the last 27 years. I hope that I have been able to make you all more comfortable. I feel that now the time has come for me to retire. With that in mind, I have found some very good practitioners to treat you.

Letters cont.

Victoria Stokes FHP Home visits 07783 937401 and in surgery in Bishops Stortford with R Handford and Co. Podiatry (see advert letter D)

16, Hockerill St. Bishops Stortford, CM23 2DW 01279 652249 **Please note:** This surgery has almost no parking and requires ability to climb stairs.

Sandi Sykes FHP 07792 069556 Bishops Stortford Grace Sykes Podiatrist BSc (Hons) Surgery 2, Wentworth Drive, Bishops Stortford, CM23 2PB Ground floor with off street parking.

Thank you all again for putting your trust in me. I wish you all the very best and feel sure you will get on very well with whomever you choose.

You will still see me around the village looking down potholes and drains, no doubt, when I have more time to devote to that cause.

Best wishes.

Sue Leech, Foot Health Professional

Advertising in The Dragon

The Dragon is run by volunteers on a not-for-profit basis and is funded entirely from advertising revenue which is generated, primarily, from income received from companies who advertise with us on an annual basis but also boosted by income from various ad hoc adverts printed on a monthly basis. In the past we have printed ad hoc adverts from local organisations and charities free of charge but, last year, faced with sharply increased print costs, we introduced a policy, when a fundraising event was being publicised, to invite a voluntary contribution to help defray our expenses. We thank all who responded so kindly to this invitation and their voluntary contributions have all been most gratefully received.

Many of our annual advertisers have supported The Dragon for many years, Peter Smith (page 3) being one of them and we are very grateful to those who continue to do so. Not only because of the competing attraction of social media enabling messages to be transmitted instantly and free to a wide audience but also because there are doubtless some Dragon readers who may not have kept up with such technological advances.

Every year, however, for a variety of reasons, some advertisers decide not to renew and the letter from Sue Leech (page3) may therefore be of interest.

While we believe we offer very good value for money, filling the annual advertising pages, nonetheless, remains quite a challenge and there are still

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still some spaces available for the coming year running April 2024 to March 2025. So I would like to enlist your help in spreading the word about the benefits of advertising in The Dragon. If you know of any company that you think might be interested in advertising in The Dragon please let them know the annual cost for a black and white advert is £300 for a full page, £160 for a half page and £86 for a quarter page, which compares very favourably with our monthly ad-hoc rates, which are respectively £60, £30, and £20 for a full, half and quarter page advert. Or ask them to contact any member of the Editorial Committee (see page 1) for further information. Thank you,

Sheena Bigland

OSCA News

Book Sale

A huge thank you to Gerry and Sheena Bigland for all their hard work which made the Book Sale such a success. It involves many, many hours of sorting and organising the hundreds of books you all so generously donate. This year they made an amazing £954 for the OSCA funds. When you realise that most books cost around 50p, that is an amazing number of books sold. Who said people are no longer reading books? The Henham Book Sale certainly proves them wrong.

It was great to see so many villagers catching up with each other while gathering arms full of bargains and enjoying cups of tea and the delicious cakes very kindly donated by many talented bakers.

Gerry and Sheena would like to thank all those ladies who baked for us, all the people who helped on the day and everyone who supported OSCA by donating or buying books and jigsaws. We again had a mountain of jigsaws and all but three of them were sold.

We are delighted that The Copped Hall Trust, Epping have again taken all the remaining books, that they in turn sell to enhance their fund raising. Which is fantastic and it means every book you donated has helped raise funds for someone.

Thank you.

Carol Eaton

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Hello Villagers,

The half term is fast approaching and we are looking forward to the light in the evenings so that we can resume our outdoor learning.

We have several exciting projects coming up in the spring and we hope that you will see our children out and about in the village regularly.

Our first project will be starting to grow our own fruit and vegetables, making use of the allotments on the school premises.

We have lots of trips and visits that have been happening this term. Our Year 5 and Year 6 children had a magical day at Harry Potter World, drinking butterbeer and learning about all the different careers involved in making films. They were amazed by the computer-generated imagery used in creating the dragon.

Our Year 4 children visited Colchester Castle linking to their topic about the Romans. We also had some volunteers from the local area come into school to show the children how to use a metal detector in order to find Roman treasure on our school field.

There are many more trips and visits coming up including a surprise I've got up my sleeve.

If you can offer us any particular skills or volunteer to help with any of our 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 villagers to attend any school events you see advertised. You are always more than welcome.

Many kind regards

Benjamin Davey, Headteacher

Contacts for Hall Bookings			
Church Hall	Isobel Brooks	01279 850354	
OSCA	Judy Hughes	07752 292479 or 01279 850948	
Village Hall	Elaine Randall	07950 869382 or email	
		info@henhamvillagehall.co.uk	
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District Councillor Report

The Bin Collection

The Council sincerely apologises for the inconvenience that has been caused by the waste collection service. Residents rely on the Council for their bins to be collected and the current level of service has been inadequate. Whereas in normal times it is one of which we are rightly proud, as our in house team of drivers and loaders work genuinely hard over long days and in all weathers.

The issue has been over the Council operator's waste licence. Under the terms of the licence, an organisation must have a qualified transport manager. UDC transport manager left in July and the Council were given a six month Grace Period by the Traffic Commissioner whilst it sought to put a new manager in place. Another member of staff had undertaken the required training and tests and was awaiting results. I am afraid that the Council did not properly regulate its position with the Traffic Commissioner in this interim period. As a result, the Council's licence was revoked, which meant that it was unable to put vehicles on the road. An interim extension was not obtained, and this avoidable error is unacceptable.

Back up plans were started through a patchwork quilt of working together with other councils and private operators. The Council has now appointed an interim manager and the interim licence was approved after the Traffic Commissioner's office had followed proper procedures and due diligence. As we write this, we hope that when this magazine is delivered, normal schedule will have been resumed.

Accountability, however, is important and we are determined to get to the bottom of how this happened. We will ensure that the Chief Executive takes appropriate management action, ensuring lessons are learned and applied, not just in the Environmental Services but more broadly across the whole Council. The review will be brought back to all Councillors for robust testing and it will happen in weeks, not longer.

We would like to thank you all for your patience and kindness through this difficult time.

Other Matters

We still have Ward Initiative Funding available, so please ask.

Next month we will be reporting on our ambitious budget proposals for 2024/2025, The draft budget has extra provision built in for more bin crews and lorries in the waste collection service, more money to support vulnerable

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residents, grants for disabled facilities and money for exciting new social housing projects. The report and papers can be viewed on the website www.uttlesford.gov.uk/budget.

Although UDC sends out Council Rax Bills, it doesn't keep all the money – it keeps about 9 pence in every £1 collected. Essex County Council about 71 pence) Essex Police (about 11 pence) the Fire Service (about 4 pence) and the town and Parish Councils (5 pence on average—Henham is below that!)

Our Next Surgery is in Elsenham, Orwell House, Station Rd Elsenham – Tuesday 12th March 18.30

Bianca Donald <u>cllrdonald@uttlesford.gov.uk</u> 07941880279 Petrina Lees <u>cllrlees@uttlesford.gov.uk</u> 07713074656

A Resident's Lament

We seek them here, we seek them there, We seek those binmen everywhere. Are they in Henham, or in Ugley Green? Or are they just hiding somewhere in between?

I've searched for the dustcart, it couldn't be found, It seems that the binmen have all gone to ground. I know that they're somewhere, they can't disappear, There's waste all around us, so why aren't they here?



There are black bins and green bins lined up on the greens, Standing in line, not a picturesque scene. Plus little brown ones with compostable waste, Just waiting for binmen to get on the case.

The Council's admitted that they are to blame, They let someone go, with no-one else trained That sounds so stupid it has to be true, But still brings no comfort to me, or to you.

They tell us the matter will soon be resolved, All of the problems satisfactorily solved. I won't hold my breath though, whatever they say, I'm sure the next cock-up's not too far away.

Norman J Elson

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Editor's Note - apologies to the refuse collectors both men and women, for the political incorrectness. Poetic licence!

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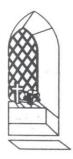
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Henham & District Garden Society

Just as the spring bulbs start to flower, our garden club starts up again! We meet in the Memorial Hall in Elsenham and have a wide variety of talks on everything and anything to do with gardening. Our programme also includes three outings this year to a wonderful variety of gardens. Our subscription for the year is £20 and the cost of outings varies depending on the distance/entry fee, usually around £30. Visitors are welcome for a £5 charge each meeting and should space allow, can also come on our outings at a non-members rate.

We have an abundance of local knowledge within the club and if you are new to the area it is a great source of inspiration and advice on what thrives and what is best avoided!

We look forward to seeing you.

Moyra Jackson - Tel. 07765 00807

H&DGS.

Meetings are on the 1st Tuesday of the month during February – November unless we have an outing (see below). Doors are open from 2pm.

March 5th **The Monkey Puzzle Tree** – David Gedye

April 2nd Spring Show

June 4th French Gardens – Michael Howes

August – No Meeting

September 3rd The Wild Side of Beth Chatto's Garden – Chris Gibson

November 5th AGM

Outings

May 7th **Bressingham**

July 2nd Helmingham Hall

October 1st RHS Wisley

HPC Notice—allotment available

The Council has one small allotment available for cultivation. It consists of three raised beds.

If any Henham Parish resident is interested please contact Nick Baker at cllrbaker@henham-pc.gov.uk

In the Garden

Well Dear Reader, I'm still alive and kicking and full of the joys of spring. I know that the spring equinox is not until 20th March, but I find it much simpler to go by the meteorological date of 1st March. Much easier for my tiny brain to deal with and it also means that spring arrives a bit earlier in my garden that in those of the purists. Spring is probably the busiest time in the garden, with a multitude of tasks awaiting our attention.

Keep up the weeding while the herbaceous beds are still clear and if you didn't apply a top dressing in February, do it now. Use Bonemeal or Blood, Fish and Bone early in the month. Just sprinkle it evenly on the surface and the weather will do the rest. This will help to re-vitalise the soil.

Those of you who are keen enough to have electric propagators can get a head start by sowing tomatoes and hardy annual seeds. A word of warning though, keep a close eye on the seeds as they germinate, as they can start going "leggy" if you leave them in the propagator for too long. I find the best answer is to take them out of the propagator as soon as they are up about a centimetre and place the tray on either a heated mat, or a propagator tray without a lid on. The bottom heat will keep them going without stretching them. I sow my broad beans in cellular trays in a cold greenhouse now to get a stronger growth and an earlier crop.

March is the month for pruning roses and many other shrubs. Cut back rose stems by making a diagonal cut with sharp secateurs, half a centimetre above an outward facing bud. Hypericum Calcynium (Rose of Sharon) requires hard pruning. I use hedge-cutters to cut them right down to the ground. The taller Hypericum Hidcote needs less drastic treatment, cut the top growth back by about a third. Prune Deciduous Berberis, cutting out damaged and unwanted branches and opening out the centre of the shrub. Buddleias require hard pruning as they flower on new growth. Cut the stems back to within one or two buds or pairs of leaves from the last year's growth. Deciduous Ceanothus (Californian Lilac) can be treated in the same way but leave evergreen varieties alone except for cutting out dead or broken stems. Prune *Hydrangea* Macrophilia (Mop Head and Lace cap) by cutting back to a healthy pair of buds on the new growth. At the same time, cut out old dead and unwanted stems. Leycestaria (Pheasant Berry), Fuchsia and Cornus (Dogwood) also require hard pruning. Cut back stems to within a couple of inches from the ground. Pull off the dead leaves from bearded irises, taking care not to disturb the rhizomes. Remember that the top of the rhizome should be above the ground to allow the sun to bake the top.

Cut off any brown patches from the new leaves and gently loosen the earth around the plants.

Plants which have been overwintered in the greenhouse may well need potting on now. When potting on, don't go up too much in the size of the pot. Usually the next size pot is the best. A useful tip for potting on is to partially fill the new pot with compost, then place the plant to be re-potted into the pot, still in its own pot. Fill the new pot with compost, firming it in around the sides and then gently remove the old pot. Carefully take the plant from the pot and you have a perfect sized hole to place the plant into.

Time now for one of my useful tips. There is little more beautiful than the sight of butterflies flitting from flower to flower in your garden. The best way to encourage them in is to create an area for them to breed. Not everyone knows that butterflies will not breed on the flowers that they feed from, so unless you provide them with a breeding area, they will go elsewhere. Unfortunately, the type of plants they prefer for their breeding are not normally plants you would choose to have in your flower borders. Stinging nettles are a firm favourite as they provide some protection for the eggs and larvae. I create a "wild" area each year, in which I let nature take its course. You don't have to go to these lengths though. If you create even a small area of stinging nettles, perhaps in a quiet, out of the way corner, this should help.

In past issues I have touched a little on ponds and how to maintain them, particularly on the need to keep an ice-free area on the surface to allow oxygen in. The simplest way to do this is to float a plastic ball on the surface in the winter. If the pond freezes over, you can simply remove the ball and you will be left with a perfectly round hole in the ice. What I don't think I have mentioned is that you should never smash the ice on a pond, as the reverberations could harm the fish or other marine animals underneath it. If your pond does ice over completely, thaw it with hot water.

Well Dear Reader, it looks like we have come to the end of this month's epic. I wish you well and will hopefully be back next month with some more tips and advice, in the meantime,

Happy Gardening.

Norman Elson

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Henham Parish Council

(Edited minutes from 1st February, 2024. Full minutes are available to view on the Village website: www.henham.org)

Reports and Recommendations

Greens and Village Estate – Cllr. Baker:

Greens Damage – (1) Erosion - General greens erosion in the village causing other potholes. Following a discussion, it was agreed a review of the damage will be conducted in the spring by the Chair and Cllr Leech. (2) Driveways across greens - Cllrs have been asked to review the damage along Crow Street which is particularly bad due to recent construction work on various properties. The Chair and Cllr Leech will assess the damage. (3) Construction damage to greens 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. The Chair wrote to the owner of the property requesting repair to the greens now that the building works have been completed. Owner has responded to Cllr Baker raising concerns regarding practicalities of protecting the greens. Councillors have been asked to consider various options suggested by Cllr Leech in his report, previously circulated to Councillors, as how to resolve this issue and will be considering the best option once the general inspection by the Chair and Cllr Leech has taken place (4) Construction damage to greens by York Cottage – it is noted that there is damage to greens on the driveway. The Parish Council will monitor whilst works are still ongoing. (5) Driving over greens – There was a discussion at the previous meeting regarding recent incidents of people driving over the greens and parking on the greens in the village, causing damage. The clerk has circulated a no parking letter to Cllrs to display on offending vehicles.

Greens Bylaws – Chair has circulated a draft of the revised bylaws to Councillors for their comment. The Chair has now submitted the draft to our solicitors to review as the procedure for changing the bylaws is complicated.

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 has made a start on this.

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 and provide a quote.

The Bury—The purchaser's solicitors have approached the Chair with a request for more adequate written rights to cross the land which separates the land from High Street. Our solicitor's legal fees will be paid by the purchasers and have been instructed to act on behalf of the Parish Council plus greens fee of £500 to be paid to the Parish Council. In line with our greens policy, the right of way will only be formalised with respect to the existing building at the Bury.

Flooding by Heathfield – A resident has asked the Parish Council to investigate the flooding of greens outside Heathfield, this will be done as part of the general inspection of the greens.

Greens Cutting Contact – The clerk has written to our contractor asking him to confirm his prices for the next year. Having held his price for a couple of years there would need to be a small increase from £455 to £480 per cut due to cost of grey diesel as he cannot use red diesel. It was agreed nem con to renew the contract.

Portrait of King – The Government is issuing free portraits of the King. Chair has consulted with OSCA Committee who have agreed that HPC can apply for a free portrait, the Parish Council will pay for framing with installation in OSCA, exact location to be agreed.

Village Ponds/Woodland – It was previously 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. Cllr Walker has been liaising with the NT team at Hatfield Forest and has requested a meeting.

Village Hall – Solicitors have been instructed to review the ownership and responsibility for the Village Hall as the existing documentation is 100 years old and needs updating. Legal advice is expected shortly.

HPC Community Support Fund – Nothing to report other than clerk has issued a cheque for second tranche for Dinky Dragons.

PCSO – The PSCO is visiting the village shop on the following dates: 24th Jan - 1045-1200 (cancelled to due PCSO attending a burglary), 12th Feb - 1045-1200, 21st Feb - 1045-1200, 1st March - 1045-1200, 20th March - 1045-1200, 5th April - 1045-1200, 24th April - 1045-1200.

Residents are encouraged to use this opportunity to raise any concerns they may have.

Management of Pledgdon Green - 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 the Chair instructed our solicitors 13/12/23 seeking further clarification on a couple of points, including grazing rights and rights of access/vehicular rights. This is ongoing and a barrister has now been instructed to provide further clarification. Cllrs previously agreed the costs of £1k plus VAT for the barrister plus £250 plus VAT for our solicitor's work. Conservation Area Status - Broxted Parish Council is exploring whether the Brick End Road area could become a Conservation Area and has 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. It was agreed at the last meeting 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. No negative comments have been received. Following a discussion, Cllr Lee proposed that HPC consults with Broxted Parish Council and offers assistance to attain conservation area status, seconded by Cllr Franklin, approved nem con. Hedge Cutting - hedges around the Green and along the lane have been arranged to be cut at a rate of £50/hr + VAT.

Website – The new website is up and running https://henham-pc.gov.uk . The Parish Council would encourage residents to provide the clerk with any additional information they would like to see on the new website e.g. details clubs/societies, photos etc. The clerk has now set up each Cllr with a new gov.org email address. The majority of Cllrs have now migrated across to gov.uk email. The technical glitch regarding the "contact us" form on the website not working has now been fixed.

Village Broadband – Openreach and Gigaclear both have plans to bring Ultrafast Broadband to Village. 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 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. Open Reach have asked the Chair for permission to

dig up greens which has been granted. (2) **Gigaclear** - Currently in the village installing their infrastructure. The Chair has written to Gigaclear in December 2023 seeking assurance that damage to the greens will be repaired.

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. Deposits paid for band and toilet hire. Bin hire has also been organised by the Chair. Chair has also applied for temporary licence.

Stansted/Elsenham Surgery Merger – All patients have previously received a direct communication from the surgery about the proposed merger due to take place on 1/4/24. Update re surgery merger previously circulated to Councillors by Cllr LeCount.

Car Parking Consultation in Uttlesford – The Chair has responded to the consultation on behalf of the Parish Council reflecting Councillors concerns regarding the proposed increases in car parking fees. All documents will also be available to view on the Uttlesford District Council website at https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/car-parking-consultation.

Consultation on draft recommendations for division boundaries in Essex – There is a proposed electoral Boundary change for County Cllrs in Essex. The draft recommendations propose that Henham and Elsenham leave Stansted Mountfitchet constituency and join Thaxted. The Chair is concerned that Henham Parish Council has never had any communication or business with Thaxted, whereas we have many connections with Stansted with the road infrastructure, sharing of PCSO, GP surgery, education. The Chair had a meeting with the Chairs of Stansted and Elsenham Parish Councils on 29th January and each parish has agreed to robustly object to the proposals. County Cllr Gooding was asked to support HPC's position and agreed he will confirm his support in writing to the Chair.

Finance

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. Nationwide have confirmed rates on our accounts are increasing from 3.80% to 4.30% and 3.10% to 3.35% respectively.

2023-2024 Accounts – Q1 and Q2 Accounts for 23/24 have been reviewed and approved by Cllr Fisher

2024-2025 Precept - The HPC Income requirement held at £41,140, as agreed in the December 2023 meeting. The net tax base for Henham (number of properties paying council tax) has gone down slightly from 686.25 to 685.71. This has the effect of increasing slightly (by 5 pence) the amount of council tax raised per household; for example, the band D rate for 2024-25 will be £60.00 compared to £59.95 in 23/24. All bands will increase by 0.1% for the 2024-25 precept contribution. Paperwork was submitted to UDC on 18/12/23 by the clerk.

Receipts				
From Whom	Description	Amount		
SOV 100	October Draw	£400.00		
SOV 100	November Draw		£400.00	
SOV	Shop donations		£95.00	
J Day & Son	Headstone fees	£200.00		
Daniel Robinson	Memorial fees	£200.00		
Daniel Robinson	Burial Rights			£980.00
To Whom	<u>Description</u>	Amount	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Total</u>
M Dacey	December salary	£462.30	£0.0	£462.30
GJ Cox	Village Christmas tree	£250.00	£0.0	£250.00
Castle Water	Allotment water bill	£72.81	£14.56	£87.37
M.Dacey	Refund for photo competition vouchers	£140.00	£0.0	£140.00
JRB Enterprise Ltd	Dog poo bags	£66.64	£13.33	£79.97
Treecology	Tree works by bus shelter and Crow St	£250.00	£50.00	£300.00
OSCA	OSCA hire	£100.00	£0.0	£100.40
Henham Village Shop Association Ltd	Post Office fees Nov 23 to Feb 24	£2394.25	£0.0	£2395.25
M Dacey	December salary	£462.30	£0.0	£462.30
M Dacey	Working from home allowance	£78.00	£0.0	£78.00
S.Bambridge	Refund for summer fete bank deposit	£250.00	£50.00	£300.00
Stanley Tee LLP	Plegdgon Green legal fees	£1250.00	£250.00	£1500.00
Luxury Toilet Hire (UK) Ltd	Deposit for summer fete toilet hire	£171.60	£42.90	£214.50
Nick Baker	Refund for temporary licence for summer fete	£21.00	£0.0	£21.00
Tees	Barrister advice fees re Pledgon Green Common	£1000.00	£200.00	£1200.00
Ricki Shelsher	Village signs and window cleaning	£50.00	£0.0	£50.00
Bit Solutions	IT support for Flexmail set up	£82.50	£16.50	£99.00
Henham Village Hall	Dinky Dragons Community Grant	£186.00	£0.0	£186.00

Planning and Development

UTT/23/0713/OP - Outline Planning Application, with all matters eeserved 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. Re-consultation UTT/23/2735/FUL — District Cllr Lees to check if the calling in is still standing.

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 further evidence submitted on 31/8/23.

UTT/23/3077/HHF – Proposed new front entrance porch, single storey side and rear extensions with changes to fenestration, with additional dormer and fenestration to existing annexe (revised scheme to UTT/23/1724/HHF), York Cottage Crow Street.

UTT/23/2934/HHF – Proposed installation of a pair of centre-opening metal gates and supporting metal posts, The White House High Street

UTT/23/3091/FUL – Proposed Section 73A Retrospective application for the change of use of land from agricultural to residential garden, 1 Old Mead Cottage Old Mead Road

UTT/24/0053/FUL - Proposed new dwelling and cart lodge (alternative design to plot 1 approved under UTT/21/2328/FUL), The Barn Old Mead Road – Cllr Franklin and Cllr Leech declared an interest and absented himself from any discussions.

UTT/24/0073/HHF - Proposed conversion of double garage and store to create 1 no. first floor annexe including addition of new enclosed two storey extension and creation of ground floor photographic studio, The Bell House, Old Mead Road

UTT/24/0129/HHF & UTT/24/0130/LB - Single storey rear extension and conversion of ground floor bathroom into dining area, including widening internal opening, removal of rear casement window and installation of white timber patio door. Internal alteration to convert first floor dressing room into bathroom. External works to the rear garden area removing raised beds and extending paving to form patio. Remove of clay tiles to section of single storey roof and replace with natural slate tiles, Yew Tree Cottage, Chickney Road

Proposed Development at Saffron House Paddock – The Developer has written to the clerk requesting a meeting with the parish council to discuss a proposed development of 3 houses in the paddock behind Saffron House, High Street. Cllr Fisher declared an interest and absented himself from any discussions. Following a discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Lee would make contact with the developer and arrange a meeting.

Breaches: Cedar Cottage- Cllr Lee declared an interest and absented himself from discussions. There is an enforcement notice which becomes operational and effective on 31/1/22. Parish Council continues to monitor the situation. The clerk emailed UDC enforcement for an update 3/3/23 and 21/3/23 – chased again 11/4/23. Enforcement officer confirmed no action can be taken until planning decision is made 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. New application submitted UTT/23/1257/HHF re proposed Replacement roof, replacement fenestration and minor alterations to existing outbuilding Cedar Cottage- HPC objection has been submitted. District Cllr Lees to speak with enforcement and provide an update.

Investigation into alleged breach- alleged airport parking, at Railway Car Park, Old Mead Road District Cllr Lees confirmed it is an established car park and no planning permission is required for airport parking.

<u>Appeals:</u> APP/C1570/D/23/3333936 - The Fuchsias Old Mead Lane - Single storey rear extension (previously approved) with part first floor rear extension over. Ground floor has an extant permission (UTT/23/0249/HHF) - appeal is proceeding under the Householder Appeal Service (HAS), there is no opportunity to submit comments. Cllr Franklin declared an interest and absented himself from any discussion.

APP/C1570/D/23/3333926 - The Fuchsias Old Mead Lane—Section 73A Retrospective application for the reduction inground level at the rear of the site and installation of sleeper retaining walls to rear and side boundaries. Proposed single storey outbuilding, part with pitched roof part with flat roof, to be used as a domestic garage, gym and home office ancillary to the main dwelling house (UTT/23/1319/HHF) - appeal is proceeding under the Householder Appeal Service (HAS), there is no opportunity to submit comments. Cllr Franklin declared an interest and absented himself from any discussion

Mill Road Development: The Parish Council met with the Developers Bellway Homes on 5th October to discuss areas of concern. Cllr Walker is taking the lead on this and is liaising with the developer's agents and residents. The Developer has confirmed a letter has been sent to the immediate neighbours offering briefings on the proposals. This is mainly to residents on Vernon's Close. The Developer has confirmed the following:

- 1 The project website has been uploaded (https://newhomesforhenham.co.uk/). This provides basic information about the proposals and has facilities for residents to register for updates and ask questions,
- 2 A leaflet will be sent out to the wider area of Henham village later this week making residents aware of the project and inviting them to a drop-in event later this month.
- 3 Host a drop-in event at the Village Hall on Wednesday, 24 January, from 4pm to 8pm,
- 4 A virtual exhibition will then be uploaded on the project website, to run for two weeks after the drop-in event,
- 5 A survey questionnaire will be provided to those attending the drop-in event, or to be completed online on the website. The consultation will close on Sunday, 11 February 2024, and the consultation responses will be assimilated, and a report written summarising the outcomes. This will be circulated to stakeholders and those who have registered on the website.

Cllr Walker attended the drop-in session and circulated a briefing note to all Cllrs prior to this meeting. Concerns have been raised by residents regarding drainage and ownership of ditch boundary and the Vernons Close Residents Association will be liaising directly with Bellway (developer) regarding this. Bellway stated that education funding would be split between Primary and Secondary education as detailed in the S106 report, with ECC to allocate funding. Cllr Walker will be liaising with the relevant school governor of Henham Primary school regarding this.

Highways

OMR-OML – Nothing to report other than Cllr Franklin has reported to UDC the OMR Road name sign damage at the level crossing, replacement sign now installed.

Mill Road/School Road yellow lines — The Parish Council is aware of dangerous parking on the Mill Road bend by School Lane. Chair is attending a meeting with the Headteacher, a parent and County Cllr Gooding is also invited to attend on 8/2/24 to discuss parking concerns.

Flooding – The Parish Council thanks Cllr Leech and a resident for all their hard work in documenting local areas of flooding which the clerk forwarded onto District Cllr Donald. Cllr Franklin raised the issue of raw sewage going into OMR and will liaise with County Cllr Gooding.

Potholes – The Parish Council thanks the resident for pursuing pothole repairs in the area with Essex Highways.

Residents are encouraged to also report any matters to Essex Highways direct via the Essex Highways web site www.essex.gov.uk/highways (details also on the Henham Website), as the more people who complain regarding Highways matters the more likely something will get done.

Residents are encouraged to report unsafe or dangerous parking in our village to: swilliams@uttlesford.gov.uk Stansted Airport Limited operates a Freephone number for reporting suspected on-street airport related car parking. The Freephone number is: 0800 7312385

Waste and Minerals Development Issues – There was an online briefing session in relation to the Essex Minerals Local Plan Review on Tuesday 30th January 2024 which Cllr Rutterford attended. The update identified Elsenham Quarry with the proposal that it is extended right down to the B1051, Pledgdon Green lane, Pledgdon Green. Following a discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Rutterford would liaise with a previous Cllr who has extensive knowledge on this matter and the Chair would contact our retired planning expert for advice. The consultation is currently scheduled for February 2024 for 6 weeks.

Governance – The Parish Council Standing Orders and Financial Regulations have been circulated by the Clerk to all Councillors for review in the coming months. Complaint from resident regarding Pledgdon Green planning application, Chair has responded.

Henham SOV 100 Club Draw for January

157 Members

1st Prize Number 125 (Mr & Mrs J Smith) £228 2nd Prize Number 17 (J Franklin) £110 3rd Prize Christmas Bonus Ball Accumulator) £55 Cumulative total £110

Total funds received per draw were £785 Half will be paid in prizes plus the cumulative Christmas Bonus Ball with the balance of £392 paid to Henham Parish Council SOV Funds.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th March 2024, 7:30pm at OSCA. Please note change of date. Everyone Welcome.

Mareike Dacey, Clerk

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Collect trail map from outside the Church Hall, Carters Lane.

Follow the trail, discover the Easter story by scanning the QR codes with a phone.

Collect the eggs and get a prize at the end!

Buggy friendly, suitable for toddlers to Y6.

Any questions contact Isobel on 01279 850354

Church Calendar—March 2024

Sun	Church Service day 3 rd	Other regular events Sundays
10:1	5 All Together All Age Service,	•
10.1	Elsenham Village Hall	Elsenham and Henham Sunday Club/
	<u>c</u>	Explorers (reception-Yr5)
	(Advent)	(Yr1-Yr6) Starts at EVH then on to Old
18:0	0 Sunday@6, HUSCH, Henham	Franks, Elsenham, 10:15am
~	a doth	10 th 17 th & 24 th
	day 10 th	Pathfinders (Yr6-Yr9)
08:4		
10.0	Elsenham Church	HUSCH, Henham 6:00pm - leave from
10:0	,	Sunday@6 to meet in the Church Hall, Henham. 3 rd , 10 th 17 th & 24 th
10:1	Ugley Church	Heiliani. 3, 10 17 & 24
10:1	5 Holy Communion, Elsenham Village Hall	Crammin (Yr10-Yr13)
18:0		HUSCH, Henham 6:00pm followed by
10.0	o Sunday@o, 1105C11, 11cmain	7:00pm at OSCA, Henham.
Sun	day 17 th	3 rd , 10 th 17 th & 24 th
08:4		3 , 10 17 & 24
00.7	Elsenham Church	Mid-week and Saturdays
10:0		Start the Week with Prayer
10.0	Ugley Church	·
10:1	~ .	Church Hall, Henham 9.30am
2012	Village Hall	Mondays: 4th, 11th 18th & 25th
1 8:0		Seekers After School Bible Club
		(Yr3-Yr4) Old Frank's 3:20pm
Sun	day 24 th	Mondays: 4 th 11 th &18 th
08:4	5 Prayer Book Morning Prayer	Christian Play (Yr1-Yr2)
	Elsenham Church	Rowen House, Elsenham 3:15pm
10:0	,	Tuesdays: 5 th 12 th 19 th & 26 th
	Ugley Church	-
10:1	- 6	Little Fishes Pre-school Group
	Village Hall	Church Hall, Henham 10:30am
1 8:0	0 Sunday@6, HUSCH, Henham	Thursdays: 7 th 14 th 21 st & 28 th
	eothas a constant	Little Fishes Pre-school Group
	ay 29 th March Good Friday	Elsenham Memorial Hall 10:00am
12:0	- ,	Fridays 1 st 8 th 15 th & 22 nd
	Ugley Church	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
13:3		Church Lunch Club
	Memorial Garden	Elsenham Memorial Hall 12:30pm
Mar	ch 31 st Easter Sunday	(2 nd and 4 th Friday of the month)
10:0	0 Prayer Book Holy Communion	8 th & 22 nd
10.0	Ugley Church	No Henham Tea this month
10:1		
	Village Hall	
	3	

Village Diary Regular Clubs and Meetings in the Village

Monday			
9.30 - 11.00	am	Dinky Dragons (term time only)	Village Hall
10.00 -12.00	am	Tennis, Rusty Racquets	Henham Courts
3.15	pm	Junior Tennis	Henham Courts
7.00 - 9.00	pm	Table Tennis Club	OSCA
Tuesday			
9.15 - 11.15	am	Badminton Club	HUSCH
5.15 - 6.15	pm	Beavers (term time only)	Ugley Village Hall
5.30 - 6.15	pm	Street & Com Dance (8 - 10yrs)	OSCA
6.30 - 7.45	pm	Cubs (term time only)	Ugley Village Hall
6.15 - 7.20	pm	Street & Com Dance (11yrs+)	OSCA
7.20 - 8.20	pm	Adult Dance	OSCA
Wednesday			
3.30	pm	Junior Tennis	Henham Courts
5.45 - 6.45	pm	Beavers (term time only)	Ugley Village Hall
7.00 - 8.45	pm	Scouts (term time only)	Ugley Village Hall
7.30 - 9.00	pm	Badminton Club	HUSCH
Thursday			
9.00 - 10.00	am	Pilates	OSCA
10.00 - 11.00	am	Pilates	OSCA
10.30 - 11.30	am	Little Fishes (term time only)	Church Hall
1.45 - 2.45	pm	Tots/Preschool Tennis	Henham Courts
3.30	pm	Junior Tennis	Henham 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
Friday			
9.00 -10.30	am	Ladies' Tennis Morning	Henham Courts
Saturday			
9.00 start	am	Omega Runners	Meet Outside Vision Fitness
9.30 -11.45	am	Junior Tennis	Henham Courts
Sunday			
2.00 - 4.00	pm	Tennis Ladder (matches permitting)	Henham Courts

Details of classes at Vision Fitness Gym, Parsonage Farm, can be found on their website: visionfitnesshenham.co.uk

Church News

The Reverend Louis Wilson writes....



We have some new neighbours who have moved in right next door to Henham Vicarage. I haven't met them, but I've seen them moving around - it's a flock of sheep.

Did you know? The one animal which the Bible consistently uses to explain humans, and the way we behave, is sheep. And I think the reason we're like sheep is because sheep follow. They follow a voice. They follow shepherds.

And I don't know if you've ever thought about it, but we all have shepherds. We all have people we follow, people who have an influence over us.

It could be an online guru, a friend, a spouse, a colleague, someone in our family; or a mix of all of them. But the point is, whether we're conscious of it or not, we all listen to other voices; we all have shepherds we follow.

But the problem is: not all shepherds are worth following. In John Chapter 10, Jesus says there are two kinds of shepherds. There are some that are simply no good. When trouble comes, they run away.

He explains: if you're a sheep, the most dangerous thing you can meet is a wolf. Wolves attack sheep.

They are death to sheep. And Jesus says: these other shepherds, when the wolf comes, they're not there. They've disappeared.

If the worst thing that can happen to the sheep is the wolf, the worst thing that can happen to you and me is to face our mortality and death. That is our wolf.

But there's another shepherd who is different. Jesus said: I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

The word good means true, genuine, worthy. When our greatest danger approaches, when our wolf approaches, it's as though Jesus sees it coming towards us and he steps out and says: "The wolf can have me instead of you. I'll take your place".

I've not been there, but apparently, in an old churchyard in the City of London, there's a wall called the Memorial to Heroic Self-sacrifice.

On the wall are mounted dozens of tablets commemorating various ordinary people who performed acts of extraordinary sacrifice.

People like: Edmund Emery of King's Road Chelsea. Leapt from a Thames steamboat to rescue a child and was drowned 31 July 1874.

Or Henry James Bristow Aged eight – at Walthamstow on 30 December 1890 – saved his little sister's life by tearing off her flaming clothes but caught fire himself and died of burns and shock.

Or Solomon Galaman aged 11, died of injuries on 6 September 1901 after saving his little brother from being run over in Commercial Street. The inscription reads "Mother I saved him but I could not save myself."

And in exactly the same way, the Bible says Jesus gave up his life to save ours. The good shepherd laid down his life for the sheep.

From the Parish Registers

Burial of Ashes:

On Monday 29th January 2024 in Henham Cemetery, Lesley Thelma Best

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

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

Friday 1st March

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

World Day of Prayer 2024

senham Memorial Hall 14;30 Informal Service followed by refreshments



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The Gardens of Easton Lodge

In February work progressed fast on the second half of the new path to make sure it was ready for visitors on snowdrop days, but unfortunately the good weather for path-building also meant the snowdrops coming up fast and being rather ahead of themselves, making us nervous for our snowdrop days. So what March will bring is anyone's guess!

Daffodil season will probably start early, so why not consider a Group Visit for March? The Gardens don't open on Thursdays until April, so a Group Visit is the only way to see the daffodils in the Lime Wood at their best. Last year we welcomed the retired International Daffodil Registrar to the Gardens. She found many daffodils that resembled the 17 old varieties that she identified in her 2003 survey. They were probably planted at the time that Peto redesigned the Gardens for the Countess of Warwick. The main catalogue available then supplied more than 400 varieties. Now Kew reckons that 36 wild varieties have been identified and there are over 26,000 cultivated varieties. So, open your eyes to daffodils this year! If you want to arrange a Group Visit for more than 10 people on a Thursday, please contact enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk

This month we will be holding two New Volunteers' Days on Saturday 9 March and Thursday 14 March. Our volunteers love spending time at the Gardens, nearly whatever the weather. There are tasks suitable for all and the opportunity to make new friends. For more information go to our website: www.eastonlodge.co.uk/whats-on.

Jill Goldsmith

Important Diary Date—Village Celebration

Henham Village Fete Committee are proud to announce that **Saturday 22nd June** will be the date to coincide with the 80th Anniversary of D Day.

We have music lined up, military vehicles, BBQ & bar, ice creams etc.

For those who want to get in the spirit, please feel free to come in 1940s apparel.

Looking forward to seeing you all on Woodend Green.

Simon Bambridge



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We invite you to come along and enjoy watching the very talented floral demonstrators produce amazing arrangements that are raffled off to lucky members of the audience.

We meet on 3rd Wednesday of the month (except August, December & January) - 7.30pm start 8pm at Ugley Village Hall, Cambridge Road, CM22 6HR

Visitors are always welcome to attend our meetings £7.50 includes tea/coffee & biscuits.

Our 20th March club night will be a workshop. Everything will be provided to make a seasonal arrangement to take home. Step by step instructions and a modest fee for materials. Why not come along!

Patricia Sanz Secretary email <flowersanzp2020gmail.com

David Lee (DLGM)

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Meeting friends and having a catch up is such a lovely way to spend time, and did you know that you can do exactly this at our monthly Farmers Market? We have the most fabulous barista coffee, thirst quenching, home-produced apple juice, and cold pressed homemade juice shots. Anything you buy from our lovely sellers, you can enjoy seated inside. You could perhaps treat yourself to some incredible cakes, wonderful savouries such as quiches, sausage rolls, scotch eggs, cheese toasties, or perhaps purchase some moreish sourdough bread and English cheeses to enjoy at home – we have it all covered!

The Markets will be on at Elsenham Village Hall (next to the school) from 12.30-2.30pm as follows:

30th MARCH 27th APRIL 25th MAY 29th JUNE

We now have around 12-14 different sellers on a regular basis, and they are all local, fledgling businesses, plus any profit from market pitch fees is donated to charity, so you can shop with a conscience!

You can find almost everything there to treat yourself to an amazing meal and it's only once a month, so go on, you know you want to and you definitely deserve it!

We look forward to seeing you.

No charge for entry; just enjoy and immerse yourself in all the gorgeous produce!

Best wishes.

Elsenham Farmers Market Team



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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.







Hall Road, Elsenham, CM22 6DN

Cor, it's been a bit blowy lately and whilst it makes a bit of a mess of our farm, our gorgeous animals are all lovely and snug and looking forward to having lots of visitors come and make a fuss of them.

Our small animals are cosily tucked away in the Woodland area and are absolutely loving being amongst the trees near the snuffly pigs.

There really is so much for you to do at the farm at the moment including riding on our train through the woods, meeting the new lambs and kid goats, holding chicks and ducklings, a woodland trail, warm drinks and snacks to enjoy, seasonal arts and crafts and more!

We have all sorts of chickens, ducks, guineafowls, turkeys and geese, and don't forget, we often have chicken and sometimes duck eggs for you to buy.

Come on down to our farm, blow those cobwebs away and meet all the new additions that will be born over the coming months.

Check our Facebook page for news on our latest arrivals, our opening hours and for any new events such as our **Hatch a Chick** scheme which is now up and running again, along with other farm news updates.

We ALWAYS need help in so many ways, particularly at times like this when there is SO much to do, so if you have a little time to spare, **PLEASE** get in touch, we would **LOVE** to hear from you.

We look forward to welcoming you to the farm.



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Ugley WI

The first meeting of our 2024 programme saw the very welcome return of Ken McDonald of the 100 Parishes Society, who accompanied by his wife, Janice, gave us a beautifully illustrated fascinating talk on some of the churches belonging to the 100 parishes, starting with Stansted's St.Mary's Church. We travelled through Great Waltham, Hildersham, Furneux Pelham's St.Mary's, with its William Morris and Burne Jones stained glass windows, and then to Ickleton, and Hatfield Broad Oak, where its 13th century effigy and parish chest, dating from 1400, could be found. We then travelled to Sawbridgeworth, Much Hadham and Little Easton where we viewed the American Forces window. On then to Hunsdon and Hempstead, the latter being the birth place of Dick Turpin. Also on the itinerary were Radwinter, Clavering and Wyddial Church, with its brick pillar dating from 15th century. Last but not least, Ken took us into the beautiful Ugley parish church dedicated to St.Peter.

The entertainer at our March meeting, to be held on **Wednesday 20th March** at 2pm in Ugley Village Hall will be Chris Bishop, who will be entertaining us with folk songs! Why not come along and join us for the afternoon? You'd be most welcome!

Andrea Fitt 01279 815922

Saffron Walden Choral Society

The Saffron Walden Choral Society will be performing a concert entitled 'Into the Stars' at Saffron Hall on Saturday 16th March, 7.30pm.

Vaughan Williams' 'Five Mystical Songs', settings of the metaphysical poet George Herbert, provide the starting point for an exploration of English choral music from the past 30 years. Cecilia McDowalls' *Da Vinci Requiem* uses texts from the requiem mass and writings of Leonardo da Vinci. Also included are Will Todd's *Songs of Peace* and Jonathan Dove's *Seek Him that Maketh the Seven Stars*.

The concert will be full of ethereal beauty, celebrating man's ability - through love of music and nature - to reach beyond our earth into the universe to find eternal peace. It promises to be a beautiful evening of music.

Bob Goldsmith



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The Hundred Parishes Society

www.hundredparishes.org.uk



We are fortunate today that we have a benefit system to help vulnerable people. In the past, the less fortunate relied on parish relief or the generosity of the better-off. Some wealthy benefactors left money for the provision of almshouses. You can see an article on almshouses on the Hundred Parishes website.

Other philanthropists helped the poor by giving money in a variety of ways. Some churches record the benevolence of these donors on large "benefactor" boards. For example, in St. Peters, Ugley we are told on one board that Robert Bucke, a draper, in his will of 1620 gave 3 suits of clothes to 3 poor men and 3 suits to 3 poor women with hats, to be given every third year "for ever.

Just a few miles away in Manuden's parish church, a board describes three benefactors, one of whom is the same Robert Bucke. Here he gives the same number of suits to the poor of Manuden, here with additional hats, shoes and stockings.

In Little Hadham the church of St. Cecilia has a board recording that Miss Ann Scott, in her 1865 will, left dividends to the rector and church wardens to distribute bread on Shrove Sunday each year "at their discretion" to the poor of the Parish.

Hatfield Broad Oak's Church of St. Mary the Virgin has a brass plaque describing the generosity of John Gobert. He left £600 in his will of 1623 for the purchase of land, the proceeds from which were to be distributed in a variety of ways including £4 per annum to the town of Hatfield Broad Oak. His heir Sir John Barrington subsequently bought the manor of

Keeres in Aythorpe Roothing to comply with the will.

BENEFACTOR
M! Rob! Bucke. Draper Born at Ugley in Essex, by his Will dated the 27! day of Nov! 1620 Gave 3 Suits of clothes to 3 poor Men and 3 suits to 3 poor Women with Hats, and 3 Pound in Money, for makeing Ditle, to be given at the Discretion of the Church-Wardens at UGLEY every ! Year for Ever. the Land tied for the Performance hereof Lieth at CARRING in KENT

Ken McDonald,

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U3a Stansted Mountfitchet

Getting the year off to a great start our French and Poetry groups have enjoyed interesting sessions, the Walkers have been wandering away to distant villages, while the Knitting and Crochet group have livened up our village shop windows.

The Poetry for Pleasure group have studied poets including black activist Maya Angelou, (who read her wonderful poem "On the Pulse of a Morning" at President Clinton's inauguration); John Keats, who succumbed to tuberculosis at only 26 but produced many poems about sadness and death; and Sir John Betjeman who, by contrast, enjoyed a long, fulfilling career. The Group meets on the first Thursday of the month and always welcomes new members.

One of the French groups is currently studying "Le Petit Nicolas"; the adventures of a young boy. They've watched videos and online lessons with French teachers to improve listening and speaking skills as well as enjoyed quizzes and games, in French of course! If you fancy learning or improving your French in a relaxed and fun atmosphere you will be very welcome to join in.

In recent months the Walkers have targeted Albury, Manuden and a historical walk around Saffron Walden with coffee at The Cross Keys. A New Year lunch was enjoyed at The Yew Tree in Manuden with a brief walk around the village. Walks continue this year on the first Thursday of each month, usually ending up at Touchpoint, in a tea shop, or pub.

In December the u3a Knitting and Crochet Group were invited to decorate the window of the Salon on Chapel Hill brightening things up with their wonderful creations

At the General Meeting on Thursday 21st March at 2.00pm in St John's Church Hall, Bobbie Darbyshire explains in a lighthearted way how the complex world of character, location, plot and subplot arrives in a writer's mind.

John Hudson

Events & Treatments



Nicky at Calm From Within- Gong Baths offers events and treatments including Gong Meditation, Reiki Drum Meditation, Cacao Ceremonies, Reiki and Indian Head Massage

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In a world that often feels noisy and chaotic, Gong Baths offer a simple yet profound way to recharge your mental and emotional well-being. So, if you're looking for a unique and accessible path to relaxation, consider taking a dip into the rejuvenating world of Gong Baths.

As well as Gong Baths, I also provide other events and ceremonies: Reiki drum sessions, meditation classes and Cacao Ceremonies. Additionally, I offer personalised one-to-one treatments: Reiki, Reiki drum sessions, Indian Head Massage, Cacao Ceremonies, and Root to Heart guided meditation.

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Let's Talk, Stansted! - 10 things to know about us!

- 1. We are a local voluntary organisation, formed just over 3 years ago, at the height of the Covid pandemic, following the tragic deaths of two local men by suicide.
- Our mission is to support the mental health of our community and ensure that people don't need to struggle on their own. Our vision is that together we can normalise conversations about mental health in the community and take the strain off the already stretched NHS resources.
- 3. Even though we go by the name "Let's Talk, Stansted!" our remit also encompasses the villages around Stansted, including Henham and Elsenham.
- 4. To date we have funded the training of over thirty Mental Health First Aiders. In the same way as a first aider can potentially save the life of someone having a heart attack, a Mental Health First Aider can do the same for a person having a mental health crisis.
- 5. Anyone needing a listening ear, or some other kind of help or support, can contact us by emailing <u>info@letstalkstansted.org</u> and someone from the team will get in touch as soon as possible.
- 6. We work together with other local organisations and charities and can signpost people to various sources of help.
- 7. We organise and run a variety of regular and ad hoc activities that are known to support mental wellbeing, including a walking group, open water swimming, men's veg shed, yoga, talks and social events.
- 8. Over the next few months, we will be organising activities and events for Time to Talk Day, Valentine's Day, National Debt Awareness Week, Stress Awareness Month and others.
- 9. If you are interested in running a group, getting involved in fundraising or helping out with events, we are always looking to welcome new volunteers and new ideas so please get in touch!
- 10. To find out more, please visit our website www.letstalkstansted.org and follow us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/groups/ letstalkstansted











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Henham Tennis Club News

It's not that tennis takes a back seat during the winter months but an event which always captures the imagination and proves immensely popular is the Tennis Club Quiz. This year the evening had several new aspects: a newly refurbished village hall, a new quiz master and a new format whereby we decided not to provide food but to allow tables to cater for themselves. All in all it was a very successful evening despite problems with the sound quality. The event raised much needed funds which will help towards future court surfacing. A massive thank you to everyone who arranged tables, bought raffle tickets, donated raffle prizes, helped setting up/clearing away and not least, our new quiz master, Ian Thomas who kept the evening ticking along and provided some searching questions, and answers.

In all there were eight rounds ranging from the familiar Science and Nature and History rounds to a Culture round and, to conclude, a round on events in 2023.

It seems only right that I should share the tennis questions with you. So here goes: **1.** Which US player lost 16 of her 34 Grand Slam finals? **2.** In 2013, who did Andy Murray beat to win his first Wimbledon title? **3.** In 2023 where did Novak Djokovic win his 23rd Grand Slam title? Answers at the end of the report.

These events cannot take place without a great deal of effort and organisation so special thanks must go to Simon (Chairman) and Fiona, Monica and Vanessa for their contributions and hard work. A total of 14 tables squeezed into the hall so a big thank you to all who attended, both members and their guests. Any feedback on the evening would be welcome by the committee.

Endurance is something that all of us who play tennis have to manage and mentally cope with. Endurance is "the ability to endure a difficult process or situation without giving way" or to put it another way "the capacity to withstand wear and tear". Perhaps a combination of both. The important thing is surely, if at first you don't succeed don't give up and this aspect was admirably exemplified recently by the Indian tennis player Rohan Bopanna. He is, at 43, the oldest major men's winner (doubles) who with his partner Matthew Ebdon won the Australian Open in January and is also the oldest world no.1. It took 61 attempts with 19 different partners for Bopanna to win

the nerves down' before the match. He presumably had another 'nice nap' after the match had finished! There is a lesson and hope for all of us: dream on, for you never know what rewards may be just around the corner.

Another feat of endurance featured Daniil Medvedev at the same tournament who set a grand slam record of 24 hours 17 minutes on court during the championships, becoming the first player to exceed a full day cumulatively on court by overtaking the 22 hours 39 minutes that Carlos Alcaraz needed to win the US Open in 2022. In all Medvedev played 31 sets, a grand slam record! It was also the second time that Medvedev had led the Australian Open by two sets to love, only to lose in 5! In a way it was fitting that this year's Australian Open should finish with a 5 setter, because this tournament was the longest in tennis history. No fewer than 35 matches went the distance, equalling the record set in the 1983 US Open. It is surely fitting to let Medvedev have the final word: "It's very tough to lose in the final. But you have to try to find positives. And the positive is, well the final is better than the semi-final."

The weather has allowed more tennis than usual to be played on our own courts with the winter League matches and the Pick 'n Mix competition running relatively smoothly; well, the latter was until the third round had to be cancelled because of...rain!

The Pick 'n Mix is now nearing the finishing line (hopefully) with the Finals taking place on **Sunday 21**st **April.** The participants should be known by the next edition. Also on the horizon is the Tennis Club Annual General Meeting which is scheduled for **MONDAY 11**th **MARCH** at 8pm in OSCA.

A light hearted limerick rounds off this month's report:

My new serve takes off like a jet,

No one has returned it as yet,

Its angle selection

Is done to perfection,

But it never gets over the net!

John G Smith

Answers to the quiz questions

- 1. Chris Evert. She won 18 major singles titles including a record 7 French Open and a joint record 6 US Open titles.
- 2. Novak Djokovic. Andy Murray won 6-4, 7-5, 6-4 to win his first Wimbledon title in 2013. He became the first British player to win for 77 years!
- 3. The French Open. Djokovic won his 23rd Grand Slam when he beat Casper Ruud in June 2023.

Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club



The recent club quiz was attended by 178 people and a record profit was recorded – a great start to the year.

Junior indoor nets began in December and senior nets have just started on a Sunday morning.

Arrangements for our '50 years of cricket' at Stansted House, continue. On **June 30**th a day of cricket is being organised together with a hog roast which will be enjoyed by members, former members, and club guests.

We will be running 'All Stars' cricket for 5 to 8 year olds at our Stansted House ground on Friday evenings starting at 5:30pm.

As ever if you have an interest in cricket as player, volunteer, or spectator please get in touch as below.

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The Village Calendar 2024



Please email: henhamdragon@hotmail.com to let us know about any future events which we might include **or** phone any of the Dragon Editorial Committee, see the Contents page for telephone numbers.

March

Friday 1st Beat Surgery, Henham Village Shop 10:45 -12 noon

Wednesday 6th HPC Meeting, OSCA 7:30pm

Monday 11th Tennis Club AGM, OSCA 8pm

Tuesday 12th District Councillors' Surgery, Orwell House 6:30pm

Wednesday 20th Beat Surgery, Henham Village Shop 10:45 -12 noon

Friday 22nd Wreath Making, Village Hall Sunday 24th Wreath Making, Village Hall

Saturday 30th Farmers' Market, Elsenham Village Hall 12:30 -2:30pm

Saturday 30th Easter Egg Trail, Henham Church Hall 2 -4:30pm

April

Tuesday 2nd Gardening Club Spring Show, Elsenham Memorial Hall

Wednesday 10th Dragon AGM, OSCA 7pm

Saturday 20th Afternoon Tea, OSCA 2-4pm

Saturday 20th Quiz Night, Village Hall

Saturday 21st Pick'n Mix Finals, Henham Tennis Courts

Saturday 27th Farmers' Market, Elsenham Village Hall 12:30 -2:30pm

May

Tuesday 7th Gardening Club visit to Bressingham

Saturday 18th Afternoon Tea, OSCA 2 -4pm

Saturday 19th Tennis Club Open Day, Henham Tennis Courts 2pm

June

Sunday 9th Henham Open Gardens

Saturday 15th Afternoon Tea, OSCA 2 -4pm

Saturday 22nd Henham D-Day Fete, Wood End Green

Saturday 27th Farmers' Market, Elsenham Village Hall 12:30 -2:30pm





OPENING HOURS

Monday & Tuesday – closed Wednesday and Thursday 12pm to 3pm and 5pm to 11pm Friday & Saturday 12pm to 11pm Sunday – 12pm to 7pm

FOOD SERVED

Wednesday to Saturday - 12pm to 2pm and 6pm to 9pm Sunday - 12pm to 4pm

To book a table email: bookings@thecockinnhenham.co.uk

Phone 01279 850347

For information about special events each month please see website: www.thecockinnhenham.co.uk

Facebook page: The Cock Inn Public House, Henham Instagram: cockinnathenham

Refuse & Garden Waste Collections: March 2024

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 The brown bin is collected weekly.

BROWN BIN: (kitchen leftovers)

BLACK BIN: (non-recyclables) 7th 21st GREEN BIN: (recyclables) 14th 28th

GREEN GARDEN WASTE Check Uttlesford website

Village Post Office & Shop Opening Hours (01279 850644)

Post Office: M Shop:	londays, Wednesday, Fridays Morning	9.00am to 12 noon Afternoon
Monday to Friday	y 9am to 1pm	2pm to 4:30pm
Saturday Sunday	9am to 1pm 9am to 12:30pm	

Wendy Hogg is the Editor for the April 2024 edition The DEADLINE for submitting copy is Tuesday 12th March

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 (1"). Different fonts and sizes may be changed. The Dragon 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 liability accepted for work undertaken by the advertisers.

Advertising

Our annual advertising year runs from April to March. *Rates for one-off advertisements* are as follows:

Full page £60.00 Half Page £30.00 Quarter Page £20.00 Small ads, (non commercial), placed by village residents £5.00.

Village functions and charity fund raising events are advertised free but we would invite large fundraising events to make a small donation to help with our printing costs.

To advertise or for more information please contact Sheena Bigland on 01279 850373 or Jan King on 01279 850001

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