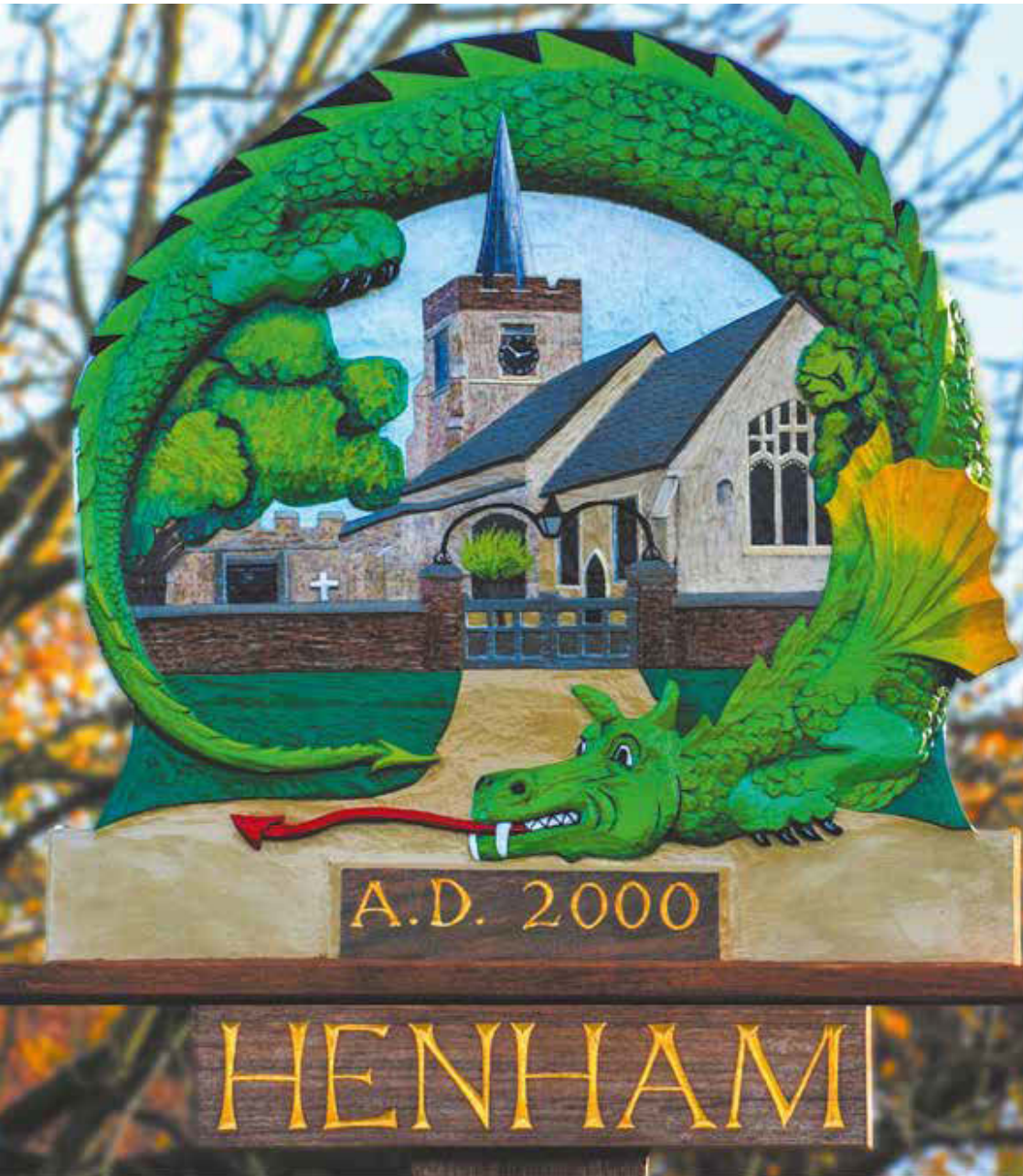


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April Dragon



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Editorial

April has arrived and the village is bursting with gorgeous spring flowers. It also marks the start of our new annual advertising year. Huge thanks to everyone who has taken advertising space this year, whether you are a regular contributor or a new one. If you do use any of our advertisers, please do mention that you saw their advert in the Dragon.

We would like to welcome a new member to the Dragon committee, Emma Mears will be helping Sheena Bigland with the annual advertising. It is still possible to place advertising with us; please contact Sheena Bigland or Emma Mears for annual advertising or Jan King for occasional ad hoc adverts. Their contact details are on the contents page and they will be very happy to give you advice and prices.

Dragon AGM

The Dragon AGM will be held on **Wednesday 10th April, 7pm at OSCA**. Everyone is welcome to come along and hear about the magazine. We are always looking for potential helpers either with distribution, editing or securing advertising; we like to think we are a welcoming bunch!

Henham Village Website

You may not have noticed that the village website address has changed, it is now henham-pc.gov.uk

Pushpa Mistry is the editor for May, please send your articles to our email henhamdragon@hotmail.com by 12th April.

Wendy Hogg

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

When someone new moves to Henham, I deliver them a “Welcome Pack”. This was a project started by the church when Fieldview Close was first built (a while ago!). It is a folder of information about Henham - church services, shop and Post Office opening hours, school, pub, village clubs, halls, bin collections, dumps, bus services, parish councillors and the many ways to get involved and help out.

However, sometimes we simply are not aware that a house has changed hands. So - if you have new neighbours, please could you let me know so that we can arrange to take them a pack and to welcome them to the village. I don't mind being told more than once. I can be contacted through the message book in the shop, and my number is always in The Dragon under 'Church Hall Hire'.

Many thanks,
Isobel Brooks, 850354

John Savident

I was very saddened to hear of the death of the actor John Savident who after retiring from his famous Coronation Street role Fred, came to live in Henham with his wife Rona.

Generally, and in contrast to his usual rumbustious roles, John lived a relatively quiet life in the village. But one night, I do remember he returned to form with a real vengeance.

At an Uttlesford District Council Meeting in 2008, John speaking as a Member of the Public, venomously tore into and shredded the Administration Group over Fairfield and then turned on his heel and stormed out of the Council Chamber with great aplomb.

It was wonderful to behold!
David Morson
Crow Street

Below is a copy of a letter from Elizabeth Sinnott to the Bishop of Chelmsford

Dear Bishop Guli

As a resident of Henham near Bishops Stortford I am writing to you as I feel very upset about the condition of the churchyard at St Mary's Church in the village to which I make a small annual financial support and have done for over 50 years.

There is an extensive building project taking place in the church yard and a large portion to the northside of the church and graveyard is undergoing serious disruption. However, the majority of the churchyard is not affected by the building work and the condition of the rest of the churchyard is an utter disgrace.

My late mother's ashes are buried in the Garden of Remembrance and my late husband has been buried in the churchyard for the last 33 years, having died very young. Today, 7th March is his anniversary, a day my family, including his sister who is resident in the village too, commemorate. I was accompanied by a family friend today to visit the grave, and we were horrified at the condition and obvious lack of care the PCC is taking. Have they no respect for the graves and the loved ones who are buried there or compassion and consideration for the living loved ones who visit? Whether we agree or disagree with the monies being spent by the PCC on the building work, this work should not in any way detract from the upkeep and respect to the rest of the graveyard.

I regularly visit my husband's grave and have over the years accepted that winter is not the easiest time for maintenance, but with the vast amount of money being spent on the church extension, surely some should be spared for the maintenance and upkeep of the graveyard which seems to be totally ignored. The grass which had been left to grow excessively long has now been mown, or should I say chewed, and left in random lumps all over the area, and what has been missed by the machinery is being ignored. It looks like a neglected paddock.

Graveyards are not the happiest places to visit, but at least they could be kept so that those who do have, unfortunately, to visit them, can get some comfort from the fact that their loved ones' memorials are being respected and cared for.

I look forward to your comments and favourable reply.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Elizabeth Sinnott,
The Barn, Woodend Green

Dear Editor

Further to my letter of the 7th March regarding the condition of the churchyard which has been acknowledged by the Bishop, and the Vicar, I have now spoken to one of the churchwardens who has advised me that the Parish Council has the responsibility of the churchyard upkeep and not the church. Irrespective of the responsible body, the churchyard is an important and integral part of our village and should be maintained, equally, with the care given to the rest of the village greens and public spaces.

Yours sincerely
Elizabeth Sinnott

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Remembering the Deluge

As you read this in April, the terrible February weather may seem a distant memory as warmer spring weather beckons. My rainfall gauge recorded 114mm rain (4½in) - a forty year February record. Whilst our Henham monthly average is 2in, February is actually our driest month with 1¼in making the deluge three and a half times wetter than normal!! Compare this to February last year when we had only 3mm rain - nature averages things out.



Do you remember the flooded road by Pledgdon Hall and wading through flood water on North Hall Road towards Newport? My lawn seemed to be in a constant state of squelchy, soggy mess but it still looked green from the kitchen; it turned out to be mainly moss – still less mowing! The rain found all our blocked gutters and weak points in the flat roofs. But we should consider ourselves lucky that we live in ‘Henham-on-the-Hill’ and not in places such as Ingatestone (nr Brentwood) where cars were flooded up to their windows.

Our gardens were not the only areas suffering. Farmers have rain damaged crops because the water could not get away on the field margins where the tractors turn. Here the crops are very thin with poor roots and we will see these brown areas suffering all the way to harvest. In fact, looking at my records since last July, each month has been wetter than normal with only August being average. So it is not surprising that the crops are suffering. All this wet means that the planned autumn sowings were not completed and so there will be more spring crops, which in turn will be planted later due to the wet soils. All this means that yields will be lower but prices are unlikely to be better as a result because we are on world values.

Here’s hoping for better times as we get into spring. Knowing our luck we will have a hosepipe ban this summer!!

Richard Peake

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In the Garden

Good day to you Dear Reader, I feel I should perhaps be writing about swamp management rather than gardening, but we get what we are given, so here goes.

The old idea that you cannot prune roses once they have started to shoot is a myth. Of course, you should probably have done them by now, but given the weather we have experienced this year, it is understandable that we are all a bit late on some things.

If you have planted new roses, make sure to keep them well watered in prolonged dry spells (I promise I'm not being facetious). Michaelmas Daisies, Rudbeckia and Monarda which have outgrown their positions should be lifted, divided and replanted if, that is, the ground is not too soggy. If you have rhododendrons which have become straggly, you can cut them back quite hard if you wish. Forsythia will have finished flowering, so they can be pruned now. They flower on new growth, so cut back the branches which have flowered to within two buds of the old wood and try to avoid cutting into old wood unless it is overcrowded or dead.

There is still a strong chance of frost in April, so be prepared to cover tender plants with fleece if necessary. If plants do get affected by frost, a good tip is to defrost them slowly by covering them early in the morning with newspaper or spraying them with cold water to thaw them slowly. That way they may well survive.

Mow the lawn regularly, lowering the blades gradually until they are at the required height. If you haven't applied a weed and feed, you can still do so. In wet, mild winters such as we have just experienced, moss develops quickly in lawns and can soon cover large areas. You can treat these areas with lawn sand, but if you have a lot of grass this can be pretty expensive. There is a much cheaper way of getting the moss, which I wrote about last year and which I will now remind you of. Grate two ounces (60 g) of ordinary household soap and dissolve it in 4.5 litres of water. Use a sprayer or watering can to spray this on the affected areas. Leave, and in about seven to ten days the moss will have turned black. Rake out the dead moss with a metal lawn rake and re-seed. A friend has told me that the same effect can be achieved using washing up liquid. Talking of lawns, here is another of my "quirky" facts: Garden centres, for obvious reasons, like to make you spend your money – often unnecessarily. Take roll-on spot weeders for example. This is simply ordinary weedkiller in a fancy applicator. Make your own, quickly and easily by taking an empty roll-on

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deodorant container, prise off the ball, wash out thoroughly and fill with ordinary lawn weedkiller, diluted as per the instructions. Push the ball back on and *voilà*, you have a roll-on lawn weedkiller applicator. Oh yes, please remember to label it clearly, you don't want to be using that on your armpits!

Now is the time to plant onion and shallot sets. A good idea is to plant garlic bulbs in with your broad beans. This has the added advantage keeping those pesky blackflies off the bean plants. You can also start french beans, courgettes and cucumbers under glass. On sunny days, open the greenhouse doors to increase ventilation. Pot on plants grown from seed and provide support for tomatoes which are staying in the greenhouse throughout the summer.

There are many ways of increasing your stocks of plants and flowers cheaply. Collecting seeds from existing plants is one of the most obvious, but one of my favourite ways is to do so by taking cuttings from both existing and new plants. Chrysanthemums are a good example. Look around your local garden centre for a good, bushy plant with lots of new shoots. Take as many 3inch to 4inch (8 – 10 cm) cuttings as you can, then remove all the lower leaves with a sharp knife, leaving only the top pair. Fill a clean plastic pot with seed and cutting compost (a good multi-purpose compost will do) and, using a dibber or a pencil, plant the cuttings around the edge of the pot. If you wish, you can dip the ends of the cuttings into some rooting compound, but if you do so, you only need a very small amount. No-one seems to know why, but cuttings seem to prefer to be up against the plastic side(s) of pots or containers. If you have a propagator, water the cuttings well and place the pot in the propagator. If you don't have a propagator, a simple way to make one is to insert some 12" (30 cm) pea sticks around the edge of the pot, then place a clear plastic bag over the pea sticks and secure it to the pot using an elastic band). Put the pot in a warm place like a greenhouse or a windowsill indoors. Keep an eye on it and be patient, eventually you will (hopefully) see new growth start to appear. When the new growth is apparent, remove the elastic band, but leave the bag in place for a week or so. You can then remove it and pot up your new plants.

Ah well Dear Reader, it seems I have run out of both time and space, so I'd better cease my inane ramblings and send this epic to the Dragon editorial team. Hopefully I will still be around to pen another masterpiece next month, so until then, Happy Gardening!

Norman Elson

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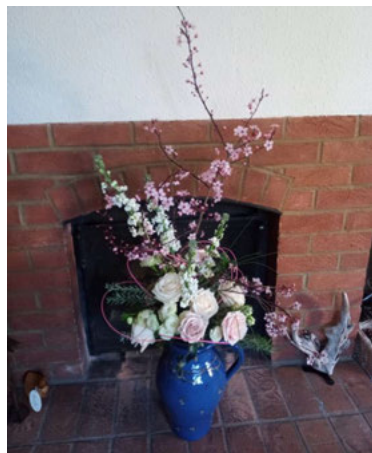
Newport & District Flower Club

Our year got off to a flying start on the 20th February with a demonstration from NAFAS floral demonstrator, Madeleine Bradley. Madeleine designed six wonderful arrangements on 'The Colours of India' and the design in the photo is titled 'Delhi', known as 'The Pink City'.

We have two dates in April. Our AGM will be on the 17th April with our guest speaker from Chickney Flower Farm. On 27th and 28th April we will be having a stall at this year's 'Crank Up' at Carver Barracks. Please come along and say hello.

We meet on the third Wednesday of the month (except January, August, and December) – 7.30pm at Ugley Village Hall, Cambridge Road, CM22 6HR. Visitors are always welcome.

Photo reproduced with kind permission from Madeleine Bradley



HENHAM OPEN GARDENS

Sunday 9th June 2024

Supporting our Old School (OSCA) and New School (HUSCH)

Although we have garden entries for this event located mainly in the centre of Henham, it would be nice to receive some more gardens, especially from the south and east of the village.

They don't have to be anything grand, just a garden large or small that you are willing to share on the day.

Views expressed from our 2022 entrants was of a day to remember and of the joy of meeting so many people from near and far, all sharing their garden experiences.

Please join in by entering your garden or for more information contact

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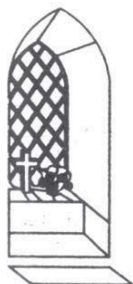
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How lovely it is to be able to show off our lovely farm to all our visitors. Thank you so much for coming to see us.

We have SO many babies around the farm and they are ALL so cute, so do NOT miss out on coming to see our small animal area in the woods, cuddling the orphans (be they lambs or goats), feeding our animals, themed arts and crafts, playing in the Woodland Trail or having a ride on our train and you can also enjoy a cuppa and a cake!

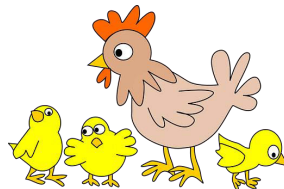
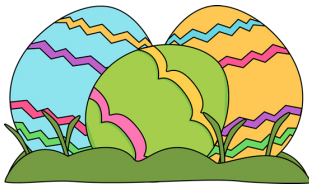
As if that wasn't enough, you can also FEED A LAMB, HOLD A CHICK OR DUCKLING or CUDDLE A KID and there will even be a GOLDEN EGG HUNT too!!!

At the moment we are open every day until 4pm, so make sure you come and see us at any time, but particularly in the EASTER HOLIDAYS! Please do check our Facebook page for any updates.

There is no need to pre-book and entry is only £6 each, but please be aware we have no credit card facilities and **ALWAYS WEAR YOUR WELLIES!!!!**

If you have a **child's birthday** coming up, why not have your party with us at the farm? Perhaps you arrange **school trips**? Then come and have a chat with us, we love having the school children here and they love coming here for an informative and fun day out!

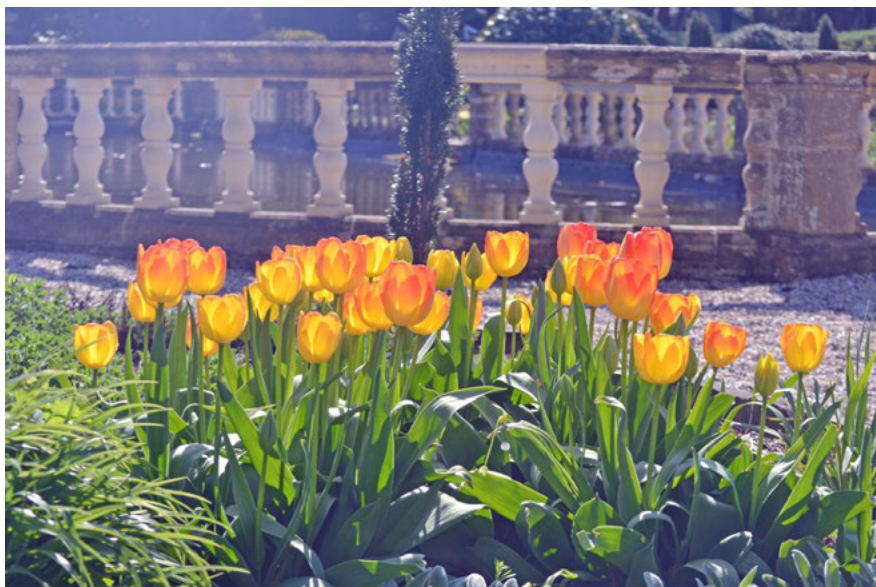
There is so much going on at our farm at the moment, so we really hope to see you.



News from the Gardens of Easton Lodge

April is the start of the main season at the Gardens – we open weekly on Thursdays, starting on 4th April, and our first main season Open Day is on 21st April.

Through March we hope the weather will have allowed us to get planting. A range of new trees for the Glade, including *Cercidiphyllum* (Katsura) and *Acers*, will have been fine going into wet soil, but elsewhere we hope the ground will have dried out, so that grass returns to the mud patches created by the standing water in February. Our volunteers will have worked to extend the Japanese garden and planted more shrubs and small conifers into the new Warwick border (behind the croquet lawn). In the kitchen garden much of the early sowings of peas and beans will have been in pots, so by April we can transfer plants and hopefully avoid them being eaten by all the wildlife in the garden - the mice, slugs, moles and pigeons to name a few!



The joys of April should be the spring flowers and blossom. After working to clear some woodland, we hope the bluebells will be able to come through more strongly and there may be the tail end of the daffodils, cowslips and violets. In the Italian garden the tulips should be providing bright colours to the fresh greens of spring growth. In the kitchen garden there will be a succession of blossom. The first blossom is the nectarines and peaches in March, followed by

plum and cherries. By April it should be pears and apples. In the Glade there will be blossom on the flowering cherries and hawthorn.

The Gardens are open from 11am to 3pm on Thursdays, with payment on the Gate. Our volunteers provide hot and cold drinks and homemade cakes. For the Open Day on 21 April, 11am-5pm there will be folk and acoustic music from Karen and Tony, children's craft and trail and the usual fayre for a Sunday: hot bacon rolls, cheese or hummus rolls, homemade soup and cakes. For more information go to www.eastonlodge.co.uk/whats-on

Jill Goldsmith

UGLEY WI

Butter pats, dolly pegs, a key, a shoe shaped coin purse and a silver jug, that started life as a tankard, were just a few of the very interesting items that our speaker Tim Turner, formerly of Swords auction house, brought with him to our February meeting. No stranger to our WI, he came to our rescue when our booked speaker had to cancel at short notice. Tim's talk was entitled 'Tactile Antiques' and we had the pleasure of being able to handle the very tactile items.

Other objects for us to admire and covet included a dice shaker, dating from 1870, a large silver basting spoon, a beautifully turned wooden chess piece, a decoy pigeon and a beautiful blue glass decanter. Wood working tools also found their way into the haul, including a beautiful wood and brass spirit level, a carpenters brace and a wood mounted sharpening stone.

When his brilliant talk came to an end he judged our competition for a children's book. The winning entry being a delightful rag book dating from 1914.

Staying with an historical theme, the subject for our April meeting, to be held on Wednesday 17th April at 2pm in Ugley Village Hall, is the history of Saffron Walden Almshouses.

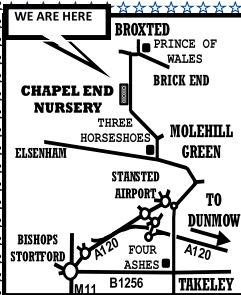
Why not come along and join us for the afternoon. You'd be most welcome!

Andrea Fitt

01279 815922.

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 **TOP 20**
 CARE HOME AWARDS

For 300 years, the Royal Gunpowder Mills at Waltham Abbey developed and manufactured explosives for muskets, rockets and wartime munitions. Today, it is a museum. Richard Thomas, a site guide, spoke at our February meeting, looking back through the centuries to China, and the discovery of what we now call gunpowder. It was fascinating, and a trip to the Waltham Abbey Museum, now looks on the cards.

In February our Gardening Group enjoyed a talk by Dave Willett, on Great Gardens and Gardeners. From the history of cultivated gardens such as the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, through the development of the medieval plot essential for food production, to renaissance gardens like Versailles, the landscape movement and Lancelot Brown, and the work of Arts and Crafts designers such as Gertrude Jekyll, much of which resulted in gardens we can still enjoy today.

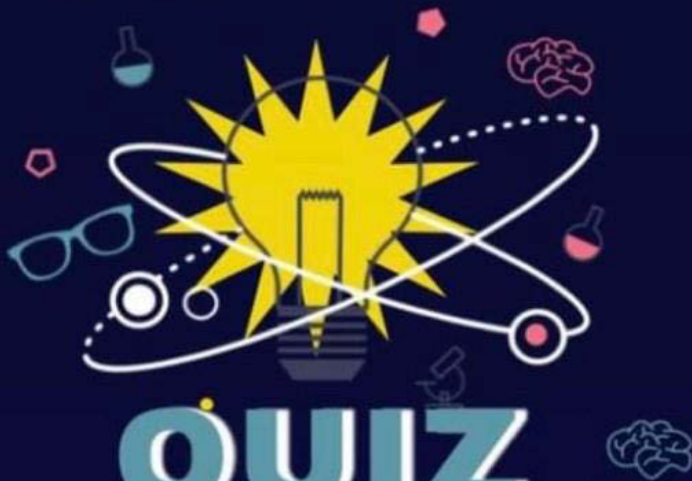
As I write, we are looking forward to hearing from David Morson. Last year he talked about the historical relationship between Russia and Ukraine. At our first Saturday seminar in 2024, he will take on another of the world's most sensitive and tragic flashpoint-' The Arab Israel Question: A History of Conflict'. David who has degrees in history, politics, sociology and religious studies, will provide the opportunity to discuss and understand the historical background, from biblical times onwards, showing the established facts, the complexities, the dilemmas and the difficulties that have created probably the most intractable and long-lasting conflict in the world today.

And then on to something very different! Graham and Mary Brace spend their retirement travelling to photograph wildlife and conservation. In April, at our General Meeting, they will share their experiences and the amazing photographs they took of 'Wildlife in Brazil'.

That's the u3a: always something different, sometimes challenging, often heartwarming, you learn a lot and laugh a lot – do join us!

Pauline Green

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Henham Village Hall

As spring breathes new life into our village, we're thrilled to share some exciting updates and upcoming events at Henham Village Hall. Our ongoing commitment to improvement has seen the installation of new internal doors, a modern fridge and freezer, and stylish blinds, all contributing to enhancing the hall's overall experience.

The dedicated committee is hard at work planning fantastic events for everyone to enjoy. Save the date for our **Quiz Night on April 20th 7pm** – secure your tickets by emailing us promptly as they are sure to be in high demand! Alternately, contact Jane on 07752 421094. Tickets cost £15 and include a fish/chicken and chips meal; there will be a cash bar and raffle.

Additionally, we're exploring the possibility of hosting a regular farmers market, aiming to provide all the essentials for a delightful Sunday roast. If you or someone you know is interested in showcasing their goods, please get in touch.

We're also eager to bring back more theatre to the hall and are on the lookout for individuals who can help us make this happen. While we anticipate the return of the panto next winter, we'd love to host other performances throughout the year. If you have the passion and skills to contribute, please connect with us via email, our website, or Facebook.

Henham Village Hall is a community space, and we welcome your ideas for new regular events or clubs. The Henham Parish Council Community Grant is available to support your community-enhancing initiatives, whether it's a youth club, coffee morning, or any other creative concept. Let's collaborate to make our Village Hall even more vibrant.

Don't forget to check out our weekly schedule, featuring Dinky Dragons playgroup on Mondays at 9:30 AM, invigorating yoga at 6:45 PM on Mondays, and Karate at 5:15 PM on Thursdays.

For inquiries and collaboration, contact us at info@henhamvillagehall.co.uk.

Best wishes to you all,

Henham Village Hall Committee

The Hundred Parishes Society

www.hundredparishes.org.uk



The Society's logo is a wood-cut by the late Eric Ravilious. Eric Ravilious and Edward Bawden were both Royal College of Art students when, on a cycling holiday, they happened upon Great Bardfield in Essex. There, they rented Brick House, starting a fascinating period for the village. Over the next two decades, numerous artists came to live there; they became known as The Bardfield Artists.



In 1932 Bawden married fellow student Charlotte Epton, a potter, and his father bought Brick House as a wedding present for them. In the same year Ravilious married Tirzah Garwood, an artist and engraver, and they lodged for a while with the Bawdens at Brick House. Bawden's work can be seen today on three Victoria Line stations - Victoria, Tottenham Hale and Highbury & Islington - for which he designed the logos.

Another artist, John Aldridge, bought Place House in Great Bardfield in 1933 and soon became friends with Bawden. They produced Bardfield Wallpaper together for the company Cole & Sons to distribute.

In 1952, painter Stanley Clifford-Smith moved into Bucks House and later to the Old Bakehouse. He was very involved in Open House exhibitions that were held in the 1950s, when the public could view and buy art in the studios and homes where it had been created.

Marianne Straub, a textile designer, moved to Great Bardfield in 1953, buying Trinity Cottage. She was the senior designer for Warner & Sons of Braintree.

Other Bardfield Artists included Kenneth Rowntree, Michael Rothenstein and Walter Hoyle.

A good selection of the Barfield Artists' work can be seen at Fry Art Gallery in Saffron Walden – it reopens on April 7th – see <https://fryartgallery.org/> for opening hours. In Great Bardfield, books and other information about the artists can be purchased at the new premises of Between The Lines bookshop.

Ken McDonald, Secretary

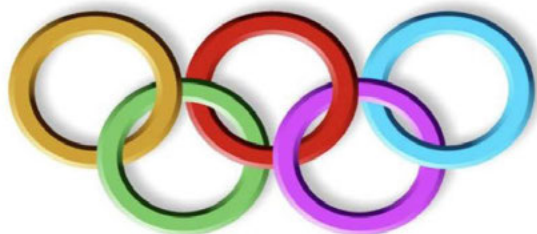


Tottenham Hale station logo

Highbury & Islington station logo



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When: **30 & 31 May 2024**
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Where: **Henham & Ugley School Hall (HUSCH)**
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Church News



Reverend Louis Wilson writes.....

I wonder if you know the story of the Shunammite woman in 2 Kings 4: 8-37? It takes place in the northern kingdom of Israel during the ministry of Elisha the prophet. In the village of Shunem, a well-to-do woman and her husband serve him regularly with food and accommodation.

What can be done for this woman? Elisha wonders.

His servant says: She has no son and her husband is old. The Shunammite woman was not looking for any payment for her services, but God knows what would be the perfect gift and a year later according to Elisha's promise, she gives birth to a precious child.

This gift points to another miraculous birth 700 years later – the Lord Jesus Christ, fully human and yet fully God.

But the woman's joy is short lived. The boy grew and one day he went out to his father in the fields saying: *My head! My head!* In alarm, his father had him carried to his mother's lap but by noon that day, he was dead. The Shunammite woman's grief is unimaginable.

However, she saddles a donkey and heads off to find Elisha the man of God. Perhaps, she reasoned, if Elisha's God could bring life from a barren womb, he could bring her son back from the dead. When she finds Elisha, she asks: *Did I ask you for a son, my Lord? Didn't I tell you, don't raise my hopes?*

Elisha goes to the boy and, in answer to his earnest prayers, the Lord gives life to the boy through Elisha's body. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes.

It is a story that points to one even greater than Elisha. Every time we read about God raising the dead, it is supposed to remind us of Easter. The prophet greater than Elisha is Jesus, who willingly gave his life for our sin and then rose from the dead.

The Easter message is that because Jesus was a man, he could take in our place the punishment our sin deserves. And because he was God, death had no power over him.

Every time we read about God raising someone from the dead, like the Shunammite woman's son, it is supposed to remind us of Jesus' resurrection and power over death. God uses that same power to save all those who believe in

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Jesus. He is able to raise the dead as easily as you or I can rouse someone from sleep.

I am reminded of the words of Mark Ashton, Vicar of St. Andrew the Great, Cambridge, who died on Easter Saturday 2010:

There is no question about the savagery of death.

But, even as my condemnation is announced, my Redeemer will rise (Job 19.25), and Jesus will present incontrovertible evidence that my sentence has been fully carried out when he died in my place on the cross. It is my relationship with him that can take me through death and which is the only hope we have of eternal life. He alone is the destroyer of death.

With very best wishes this Easter.

Louis

From The Parish Registers

Burial of Ashes:

- On 12th March 2024 in Elsenham Churchyard, Roger Stephen Southgate.

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.

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

HUSCH Please email admin@henhamugley.essex.sch.uk to book or in term time, phone the school office 01279 850213

Church Services

Sunday 7th April

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

18:00 Sunday@6, HUSCH*,
Henham

Sunday 14th April

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

Sunday 21st April

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 28th April

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

Other regular events

SUNDAYS:

Elsenham & Henham Sunday Club/

Explorers (Reception-Y5)

Starts at EVH then on to

Old Franks, Elsenham, 10.15am

Sundays: 21st & 28th

Pathfinders (Y6-Y9)

HUSCH*, Henham 6.00pm - leave

from service to meet in the Church

Hall, Henham. Sundays: 21st & 28th

Crammin' (Y10-Y13)

HUSCH*, Henham 6.00pm - leave

from service to meet at OSCA,

Henham. Sundays: 21st & 28th

MID-WEEK AND SATURDAY:

Start the Week with Prayer

Church Hall, Henham 9.30am

Mondays: 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th

Seekers After School Bible Club

(Y3-Y4) Old Frank's 3.20pm

Mondays: 22nd & 29th

Christian Play (Y1-Y2)

Rowan House, Elsenham 3.15pm

Tuesdays: 16th, 23rd & 30th

Little Fishes Pre-School Group

Church Hall, Henham 10.30am

Thursday: 18th & 25th

Little Fishes Pre-School Group

Elsenham Memorial Hall 10.00am

Fridays: 19th & 26th

Church Lunch Club

Elsenham Memorial Hall 12.30pm

Fridays: (2nd & 4th Friday of the

month): 12th & 26th

Afternoon Tea

OSCA, Henham 2.00pm

Saturday: 20th

Village Diary

Regular Clubs and Meetings in the Village

Mondays

9.30 - 11.30	am	Dinky Dragons (term time only)	Village Hall
10.00 - 12.00	am	Tennis, Ladies Rusty Racquets	Henham Courts
7.00 - 8.00	pm	Yoga	Village Hall
6.30	pm	Omega Running Club	The Cock Inn
7.00 - 9.00	pm	Table Tennis Club	OSCA

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

3.30 - 4.00	pm	Junior Tennis	Henham Courts
5.45 - 6.45	pm	Beavers (term time only)	Ugley Village Hall
7.00 - 8.45	pm	Scouts (term time only)	Ugley Village Hall
7.30 - 9.00	pm	Badminton Club	HUSCH

Thursdays

9.00 - 11.00	am	Pilates	OSCA
10.30 - 11.30	am	Little Fishes (term time)	Church Hall
1.45 - 2.45	pm	Tots/Preschool Tennis	Henham Courts
3.30 - 4.00	pm	Junior Tennis	Henham Courts
5.30 - 6.15	pm	Karate Beginners- Green	Village Hall
6.00 - 7.15	Pm	Cubs (term time)	Ugley Village Hall
6.15 - 7.00	Pm	Karate Intermediate +	Village Hall
7.45 - 9.00	pm	Bell Ringing Practice	Henham Church

Fridays

9.00 - 10.30	am	Ladies Tennis Morning	Henham Courts
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Saturdays

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

Sundays

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



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The Hair Loss Clinic

The Clinic runs from a rural location near to Elsenham. We provide information, treatment and cosmetic solutions for anyone suffering from hair loss. Hair loss can happen at any age and for a number of reasons from stress and diet to cancer treatments, we can help with managing your hair loss and create a treatment plan. Monthly clinics are held with our consultant Trichologist Eva Proudman MIT IAT who can give a deeper insight and a more clinical perspective for the treatment of hair loss.



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Henham Parish Council

Edited minutes from 6th March, full minutes can be found on the village website

Reports and Recommendations

Greens and Village Estate – Cllr. Baker:

Greens damage – (1) Erosion - Following a discussion, it was previously agreed a review of the damage will be conducted in the spring by the Chair and Cllr Leech, including review of flooding on the greens by Heathfield.

(2) Driveways across greens and construction damage to greens by

Hollybank – It was previously agreed the Chair and Cllr Leech will assess the damage. This will be carried out when the greens have dried out.

(3) Construction damage to greens by York Cottage – It is noted that there is damage to the greens on the driveway. The Parish Council will monitor whilst works are still ongoing.

Coronation commemoration – A generous resident, who is very skilled at ironmongery, has kindly offered to design and make a sculpture in the shape of a globe with dimensions 1200mm by 1200mm. Sculpture is at the finishing stages, image and details of suggested mounting have been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. Councillors discussed potential location and positioning of structure to ensure safety (ie prevent climbing) and mowing accessibility. Chair to liaise with Cllr Fisher and the resident.

Tree Inspection – Report is now received and circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. Quote for recommended works awaited.

Resurfacing The Row – The Row path falls within the ownership of the Henham Parish Council as it is part of the greens. Cllr Leech has reviewed the damage and provided a quote of £640 plus VAT to undertake the works, agreed nem con.

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. Portrait has now been ordered by the Chair.

Village ponds/Woodland – (a) 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 a meeting was organised on 21/3/24.

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Community Garden – A local company has approached the Parish Council with regard to establishing a community garden for the benefit of local residents. A meeting date is awaited.

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. Our solicitors have been chasing the Charity Commission for an update on the Village Hall; they have been informed that they have been allocated a case worker and should hopefully speak to someone imminently.

PCSO – The PCSO is visiting the village shop on the following dates, residents are encouraged to use this opportunity to raise any concerns they may have: 5th April - 1045-1200, 24th April - 1045-1200. Chair has been liaising with the police in charge regarding the PCSO contract renewal. It is noted that Elsenham Parish Council is re-joining the scheme, with no financial impact on the Parish Council's financial contribution.

Management of Pledgdon Green – (a) Ownership of Common Land - Legal advice re ownership/responsibilities of the common land has established that the Parish Council is not responsible for the common land. Barrister's Legal Opinion has now been circulated to all councillors which confirms the position that the Parish Council is not responsible for the common land. Cllr Rutterford will liaise with the local farmer who might be able to obtain a grant for its upkeep. **(b) Conservation Area Status** - Broxted Parish Council is exploring whether the Brick End Road area could become a Conservation Area and they have asked whether Henham Parish Council would be interested in splitting the costs (£1170 plus VAT) for Place Services to look into extending the proposed conservation area to include to the Pledgdon Green area. It was agreed nem con for the Parish Council to contribute towards half of the cost.

Website – The new website is up and running <https://henham-pc.gov.uk> . Annual hosting, support and maintenance fees for the coming year have been paid by the clerk - £500 plus VAT.

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** Openreach surveys are nearly complete and they are already working on building the network and hoping to roll out in the early summer. (2) **Gigaclear** - Cllr Lee attended an open event at OSCA on 5/3/24 and Gigaclear advised that they are about four weeks behind schedule, roll out to commence in April.



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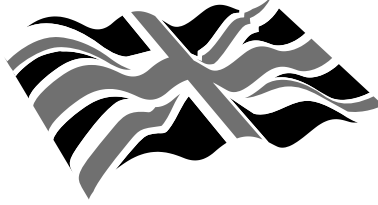


Stansted/Elsenham Surgery merger – All patients have previously received a direct communication from the surgery about the proposed merger due to take place on 1/4/24 but this merger date has been postponed.

Finance

<u>Receipts</u>				
<u>From Whom</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>		
SOV 100	Dec draw	£392.00		
SOV 100	Jan draw	£392.00		
Daniel Robinson & Sons	Internment fees	£1050.00		
M Dacey	HMRC refund	£193.00		
<u>To Whom</u> <u>(Invoice no.)</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Total</u>
M Dacey	January Salary	£462.30	£0.0	£462.30
M Dacey	Paper refund	£18.41	£3.68	£22.09
M Dacey	Ink refund	£53.98	£10.80	£64.78
Paul Mower	Village gardening Aug 23 to Feb 24	£440.00	£0.0	£440.00
JRB Enterprise Ltd (26458)	Dog poo bags	£66.64	£13.33	£79.97
Netwise Training Ltd (3317)	Annual website and domain hosting, support and maintenance fee	£500.00	£100.00	£600.00
Thinktrees Ltd	Tree survey and report	£1065.00	£0.0	£1065.00
Bit Solutions Ltd (29288)	IT services for Cllrs gov uk email	£55.00	£11.00	£66.00
JRB Enterprise Ltd (26571)	Dog poo bags	£66.64	£13.33	£79.97

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Planning and Developments –

UTT/24/0367/HHF & UTT/24/0368/LB – Proposed replacement windows to rear and conversion of window to french doors, Pledgdon Green Farm, Brick End Road.

UTT/24/0404/HHF & UTT/24/0405/LB – proposed application to replace some existing windows. Internal secondary glazing to other windows, Yew Tree Cottage Chickney Road

UTT/24/0406/HHF - Proposed removal of garden shed and installation of a new garden shed and combined greenhouse potting shed, Yew Tree Cottage, Chickney Road

UTT/24/0304/HHF & UTT/24/0305/LB - Alteration to previously approved UTT/22/1975/HHF and UTT/22/1976/LB- side and rear single storey Extension, fenestration alteration to rear of property, top floor dormer window and new garage and landscape works, Bacons Farm, Crow Street

Appeals:

APP/C1570/D/23/3333926 - UTT/23/1319/HHF - The Fuschias – Section 73A Retrospective application for the reduction in ground level at the rear of the site and installation of sleeper retaining walls to rear and side boundaries. Proposed single storey outbuilding, part with pitched roof part with flat roof, to be used as a domestic garage, gym and home office ancillary to the main dwelling house (UTT/23/1319/HHF) - Appeal Dismissed

APP/C1570/D/23/3333936 - UTT/23/0249/HHF - The Fuchsias – Single storey rear extension (previously approved) with part first floor rear extension over. Ground floor has an extant permission (UTT/23/0249/HHF) - Appeal Allowed.

Developments:

Mill Road Development (Bellway): Update by Cllr Walker: The Developer has confirmed that 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. 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. Concerns have been raised by Cllr Walker to Bellway regarding the recent flooding caused by the field works, and roadway being partially obscured by a van and lorry parked on the road. Bellway is aware and following an investigation have concluded that it is a result of historic blocked drains and gulleys in the area. They will be organising the following: Clean the ditch parallel with boundary and extend to the head wall; Clear out and tidy the ditch/culvert and clean head wall outlets to the full length of their



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land/Mill Road; Remove silt build up at kerb to allow road run off to go into culvert/head wall. The Chair and Cllr Walker met with the Developers Bellway Homes and their agents on 14th March.

Bloor – UTT/23/2063/DFO – proposed details following outline approval of reserved matters (comprising landscaping, layout, scale and appearance) pursuant to outline approval S62A/2022/0012 (UTT/22/2760/PINS) for the development of 200 residential dwellings along with landscaping, internal roads, public open space and associated infrastructure works, Land East Of Station Road. Sub planning committee will raise a concern with UDC planning regarding proposed run off to Old Mead 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 three houses in the paddock behind Saffron House, High Street. The Chair and Cllr Lee met with the developer on 27/2/24. Proposed draft plans now amended to avoid construction near the badger set. Solicitors have been instructed to obtain barrister legal opinion, estimated legal fee £1600 plus VAT.

Proposed Solar Farm – Elsenham Quarry owners are proposing a solar farm on part of their land. See website <https://www.innov8planning.com/current-consultations-1> for full details of the proposed development. The proposed site falls within the parish of Henham, not Elsenham. There was a drop-in session on Thursday 7th March organised by the Valencia. Cllrs Walker and LeCount to attend and will report back to the Parish Council.

Highways – Update

OMR-OML – Nothing to report other than OMR to be closed 20/3/24 for three days for Essex Highways to carry out drainage investigations and repairs. Cllr LeCount to liaise with local residents re ongoing excessive HGV use of Old Mead Road and Toot Toot bridge.

School parking - The Chair and County Cllr Gooding attended a meeting with a parent and Headmaster of the school on 8/2/24 to discuss dangerous parking. It was agreed that the Headmaster would send out to parents/carers a warning note that police enforcement would take place soon with penalties enforced. PCSO would arrange police enforcement visits. County Cllr Gooding will commence steps to organise School Lane as a 'School Street' on arrival and departure times. This means the Street will be closed to vehicles save residents at beginning of day and end of the school day. He will also liaise with the relevant ECC staff member responsible for the 'walking bus' initiative to explore possibility of making OSCA a drop off point, where children are then walked to the school.



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Potholes – Serious concerns have been raised by Cllr Leech to County Cllr Gooding regarding urgent repairs required to the 1m deep pothole on Thaxted Road by Pledgdon Barns. Cllr Rutterford has also contacted the Essex County Cllr responsible for Highways regarding the urgent repairs required to Thaxted Road, which is now closed.

Informal consultation re Footpath 25 - It is proposed by ECC to divert a section of Footpath 25 Henham from within the grounds of Starr Garage to the route along Hall Close. Chair has been liaising with the owner of the property and ECC, as the footpath has always been along Hall Close and the owner wishes to have this formalised and existing records corrected. The Chair has responded on behalf of the Parish Council confirming its agreement with this proposal. No formal order has been made as yet.

Residents are encouraged to also report any matters to Essex Highways direct via the Essex Highways web site www.essexhighways.org (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

Correspondence

Sent/Received: email from resident re Starr Road flooding and pot holes, various correspondence with Bellway re flooding on site, Essex Highways re footpath 25, various website enquiries.

Waste and Minerals Development Issues - Local Plan Review – 2025 to 2040

– The proposal is that the quarry is extended right down to the B1051, Pledgdon Green Lane, Pledgdon Green. The consultation was from 6th February to 19th March 2024. Response is now completed and advice for residents posted on Facebook and the website. Stansted, Elsenham and Broxton Parish Councils are also responding. The Parish Council thanks the resident at Pledgdon Green for all his valuable input together with our ecologist, the Chair and Cllr Rutterford for producing such a comprehensive response.

SAW (Stop Stansted Expansion) – It is now intended to convert SAW into a Community Interest Company ('CIC') rather than a Discretionary Trust, following legal advice. A CIC is a relatively new concept. It is a social enterprise which exists to benefit the community rather than private shareholders. The activities of CICs are overseen by the CIC Regulator to whom



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CICs must submit an annual report and accounts, which are published, to ensure transparency. The AGM, held on 7 March, included a resolution seeking authorisation to establish the CIC. The resolution makes clear that the CIC will have the same or very similar objectives to the current objectives of Stansted Airport Watch. The agenda also includes the (re-)election of officers and committee for the period to 30 September 2024. This reflects the current expectation that it will take several months to complete the transition from Stansted Airport Watch to Stansted Airport Watch CIC.

Governance – The Parish Council Standing Orders and Financial Regulations have been circulated by the Clerk to all Councillors for review in the coming months. No update required.

Local Plan – Documents related to the local plan can be found at: www.uttlesford.gov.uk/new-local-plan. Discussion on the draft Local Plan 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. Chair submitted comments on the Local Plan on behalf of Henham Parish Council. Nothing further to report.

Date of Next Meeting

The Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 4th April 2024, 7:30pm at OSCA. Everyone Welcome.

Mareike Dacey, Clerk

Village Defibrillator

A reminder to all that our defibrillator is located by the side, main entrance to OSCA. A code will be issued by the ambulance service for its release or by the 999 emergency services. Always call 999 in the first instance, you will be asked to give symptoms and then be directed to the defibrillator if appropriate.

No previous training is needed as the machine gives very clear, verbal instructions for use at every stage. It is therefore wise to have a neighbour’s / local person’s phone number to hand, as one person would need to stay with the “patient”, while someone else fetches the equipment.



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District Councillor's Report

We have commissioned a Cross Party Operational Resilience Task and Finish Group to draw and apply learning from the recent waste collection situation to prevent recurrence. To take those lessons learned and apply them more broadly across the organisation, in order to identify any points of structural weakness or risk and recommend proportionate mitigating measures. The final report will be available at the end of April.

Before the recent disruption in collections, we had decided to give readers some background detail about the refuse service. UDC's budget for its refuse service function is some £12.22 m gross pa or £5.85 m net pa, after recovery of fees etc. Currently, the district wide service is provided by nine large and one smaller frontline refuse vehicles, together with three spare/standby older vehicles. Our vehicles are equipped to receive two grades of material at one collection ie either the non-recycling (black lids) or recycling (green lids) in alternate weeks, plus food caddy contents every week.

A decision has been taken to improve substantially the service and increase the proposed budget for 2024/2025 to allow for the purchase of three additional refuse vehicles (each costs about £285,000) as well as the recruitment of additional loaders and driving personnel. This will increase the number of rounds, leading to the improvement in the reliability and speed of completion. This will enable an improved (and necessary) service response. In the recent past, Essex County Council had closed the waste transfer station in Great Dunmow, where our vehicles previously emptied their loads. This has meant that the vehicles now have to travel to Braintree refuse centre and the longer transit distances (an extra 45 minutes each way) result in slower/less efficient completion of the existing rounds. Further, the 15% population growth experienced in the district over the past decade also has caused greater volumes for processing. All this means that greater resources are needed and a commitment to provide that has been made and had already been planned for.

Our district recycling performance is interesting and compared with the other eleven local authorities in Essex, we perform very well in regard to our "green" bin effective recycling rate where we come top of the district at 29%. Our black bin recycling rate is much lower however, where we stand in ninth position at 20%; the "top" authority recorded a rate by comparison of 33%. Food waste collected via the brown caddies shows the district performance being ranked in the middle of the peer group at 8.9%.

Our agreed budget has, as stated above, extra provision for more bin crews and lorries in the waste collection service, more money to tackle the climate crisis, ongoing support for vulnerable residents, more money for disabled facilities grants, and funding for some new social housing projects. Garden waste charges will not be increased this year and we will be providing a better service to mitigate the previous issues.

This comes amidst a backdrop of challenging financial pressures for local councils which are facing diminishing sources of income from central government at the same time as increasing demand for and cost of service delivery, alongside high inflation.

Uttlesford is not immune to these pressures and identified a need to find £7.4m in net savings by 2027/28. The council is two years into a five-year change programme which will radically alter the way it operates over the coming years and is looking at ways to maximise sustainable income streams and find service-level efficiencies. This programme is already contributing £2.1m of income and savings towards the target.

The balanced budget proposed for the next year financial year includes some increases to fees and charges, including a first rise in eight years in car park charges, as well as some use of financial reserves, as encouraged by central government. It is also proposing a 2.99% increase in council tax - the equivalent of an extra 10p per week for residents in a Band D property. This brings the amount charged to local residents by the district council up to about £3.50 per week for the full range of services. This modest increase will allow vital services provided by the district council to continue whilst also helping to support vulnerable residents. The plans include provision for more than double the amount spent this year in the cost-of-living council tax discount scheme to households who may be under the most pressure. This is in addition to the most generous local council tax support scheme in Essex for vulnerable residents and those on a low income.

Wishing you all a Happy Peaceful Easter.

If any resident has any questions or issues to raise on this piece (or of course any other unrelated subject), We would be pleased to hear from them. Our surgery is April Monday 22nd April 2024 Orwell House, Station Rd Elsenham

Bianca Donald cllrdonald@uttlesford.gov.uk 07941880279

Petrina Lees cllrlees@uttlesford.gov.uk 07713074656



We can still hardly believe that our Market has only been going since August last year and boy has it grown!

We started off with six stalls and now there are twelve to fourteen regular sellers, and sometimes more, especially for seasonal occasions.

We have tried really hard to ensure that we only sell consumable produce or allied products, and that everything is as local as possible; sold by small independent sellers.

In all honesty, we have never come across a group of such friendly and lovely folk as our stallholders and seeing them (and our customers of course) is always an absolute pleasure.

So, if you haven't been for a while, do pop by. We are open from 12.30-2.30pm. You will not be disappointed.

The products that are now regularly available are: - **barista coffee & cakes, eggs, honey, fresh apple juice, chilli jam and ginger jelly, environmentally friendly cleaning products, pork and lamb, homemade dog treats, sourdough bread and focaccia, health and wellness drinks, fruit curds, artisan savoury bakes, macarons, chutneys, oils and preserves, cheeses, and fabulous fish!** We also have guest sellers, so keep an eye out for them.

The majority of the produce is homemade, so not only do you get these most amazing treats once a month, you are also supporting local businesses as well as coming together with our fabulous community!

The markets for the rest of the year are as follows: - **27th APRIL, 25th MAY, 29th JUNE, 27th JULY 31st AUGUST, 28th SEPTEMBER, 26th OCTOBER, 30th NOVEMBER (all things festive and more!)**

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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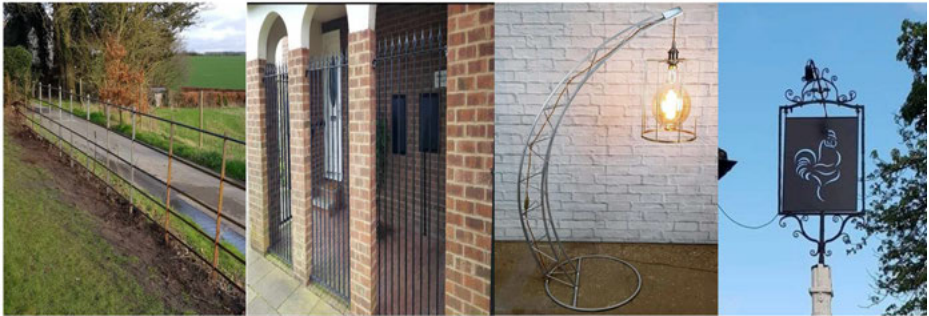
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7th April 2024, supporting Alzheimer’s Research UK

You may have seen a bright, colourful, patchwork elephant running through the village during the weekends? If you have then it is myself and my son, Jamie. We are training for the London Landmarks Half Marathon on Sunday 7th April, raising money and awareness for Alzheimer’s Research UK. Jamie is dressing as ‘Elmer the Patchwork Elephant’ in celebration of Alzheimer’s Research UK’s partnership with Andersen Press.



Dementia is such a dreadful condition, destroying lives and affecting millions of families. For us personally, we are running in memory of my wonderful Dad and Jamie’s wonderful Grandad, Alan, who we sadly lost in August 2021 after a brave six-year battle with mixed dementia.

We have been active supporters of Alzheimer’s Research UK for a number of years and we are passionate about the need to support the work for new treatments and, ultimately, a cure for dementia.

London Landmarks Half Marathon is a new challenge for both of us, as we have never run a half marathon before, but we are very excited to be taking part and supporting Alzheimer’s Research UK.

If you would like to help us reach our fundraising target, please visit:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jamie-laycock1

Many thanks for your support and if you see us on one of our training runs, please give us a wave.

All the best.

Mark and Jamie Laycock

Omega Running Group

The days are getting longer, the air a little warmer, the ground a little firmer (maybe), it's that time of year again.



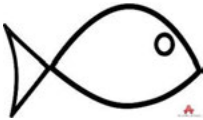
Brush off the running shoes, iron your shorts and join the Monday evening runners.

British Summer time begins on 31stth March, and the summer evening runs will start on **Monday 1st April at 6.30** from the Cock in Henham.

For the first two weeks the runs will be under 5k in length. There is always the option of a short cut. All runs start and finish at The Cock, usually followed by a chat, bring your own refreshments as the pub will be closed.

The start time will move to 7.00pm as the daylight lengthens.

This is the perfect opportunity to run in company around the villages, find new routes and new friends.



We will gradually increase the length of the runs every two weeks, with the goal of having everyone able to complete a 10k+ run by the end of the season.

The Monday evening runs are mainly off road through our beautiful local countryside. The route changes every two weeks and it is always well signposted with yellow fish.

All are welcome, don't be shy, we have every level of runner from ultra-runners to gentle joggers and we will always find someone to accompany newcomers.

Walkers are also welcome; they usually start 30 minutes before the runners to get back in time to join everyone for a chat.

The runs are free and at your own risk, we are just a group of friends running together, a course map is put on the Omega WhatsApp every week. We love children to join us but they must be accompanied by a responsible adult who can keep up with them! Dogs to be kept under close control.

To join the WhatsApp group or for more information please contact June 07749858353, email alisonjunebrennan@gmail.com or Glenn 07710035755 email glennbrennan@gmail.com

Happy running, June Brennan

Henham Tennis Club News

How often do we hear something which brings a smile to our face and actually cheers us up when we switch on the news? Not often enough, but good news there certainly is as far as the Men's 1st team is concerned, for they have been crowned 2nd Division Champions in the Summer Small Clubs League! Promotion to the 1st Division awaits this summer. After a few years of relatively little success this comes as a just reward for the dedication and hard work of their captain Phil Holder, ably supported by all team members: Scott Reynolds, Isaac Wilson, Shaun Hunt, Amrik Braico, Sean Munday, John Smith, Nic Mamier, Louis Wilson, Matthew Robinson, Matt Searson and Brian Brooks. New challenges undoubtedly await!

In the Winter League the men have recorded wins against Stansted and Roydon (both at home), a draw against Standon (home) and defeats away at Harlow and Braintree. Inevitably matches have been postponed due to the weather and one where the opposition 'forgot about the match'!! Several re-arranged matches are still to be played. The Mixed 1st team have played and won four matches with another four scheduled. Henham are in fact currently top of Division 1. Congratulations on a perfect start to the team: Phil, Scott, Fiona Price, Monica Sutherland, Ali Maxwell and Katie Harris. The Ladies 1st team narrowly lost to Clavering home and away but achieved a good draw against Stansted. Three matches are still to be played. The Ladies have been represented by Fiona, Monica, Nora Murphy-Holder, Sally Robinson and Gill Foster. The Ladies 2nds have played three matches since Christmas, winning two and losing one. Two more matches are due to be played; they were originally postponed due to the adverse weather and injury.

"Hey ho, the wind and the rain.....for the rain it raineth every day." I have the feeling that the winter has been just that! However, when the final round of the Pick 'n Mix was played recently there was some respite as both the rain and the wind relented. Eureka! As has been the format this year, 16 members assembled to play three rounds of five games, the pairings having been drawn in advance. On this chilly (but dry) afternoon there was some fascinating tennis on show: a mixture of brilliance, luck, outrageous even comical flukes, stunning ground shots, long rallies, missed smashes, deft volleys and 'moon balls' aplenty, the number of which (not mentioning the height achieved) I lost count! I had the pleasure of acting as a sort of 'ringmaster' for the afternoon. Organiser would have been a step too far as Monica had kindly prepared all the 'spadework' beforehand, for which I was truly grateful.

The new format has been generally very well received, so well done to everyone who participated in one or more sessions, and to everyone who supplied cakes, biscuits etc. and made the cups of tea. All that now remains is to announce who will be playing in the Finals. The finalists having been decided purely on points scored. The Top Ten players from the Tournaments are:

Brian Brooks, Isaac Wilson, Matt Searson, Isobel Brooks, Richard Balls, David Sargent, Jo Mottram, Dave Reynolds, Paul Findlay and Gerry Bigland.

Two of the ten players are unavailable on Final's Day. The four players with the highest points will play the Pick 'n Mix Final with the other four players contesting the Plate Final.

Pick 'n Mix Final: Isaac Wilson/Isobel Brooks v Brian Brooks/Matt Searson.

Plate Final: Dave Reynolds/Jo Mottram v Paul Findlay/Gerry Bigland.

The Finals will take place on SUNDAY 21st APRIL at 2pm. Do come along and support the finalists if you can and enjoy a cup of tea and a piece of cake as you watch the enthralling action on the courts.

Following close on the heels of this competition will be the Club's Championships, which are scheduled to conclude on FINAL'S DAY: SATURDAY 13th JULY.

Time now for this month's limerick:

We all know this queer sort of duck,
He invariably passes the buck.
If he's passed at the net,
He says: "Your ball to get",
Or he hollers: "That shot was pure luck."

Meanwhile please take note that our OPEN DAY this year will be on: SUNDAY 19th MAY from 2pm. All are welcome so we look forward to seeing as many as possible on what we hope will be a bright and sunny day where new potential members can meet numerous club members and enjoy some tennis at the same time.

It is with sadness that I conclude this month's report with the news that Margaret Smith, who many people in Henham would have known, has sadly passed away. Margaret was a keen and valued member of the tennis club for many years. Many messages have been forthcoming from members who, like me, played both with and against Maggie. She was a great friend and doubles partner of Joy

Lafferty for many years, with whom she won the Ladies Doubles in 1984. The following year she triumphed in the Mixed Doubles with Ali Lafferty, who recollected that Maggie “had a great forehand and was lovely to play with.” Other comments have been forthcoming including, from Jenny Loader: “She was able to place the ball so well, and had an amazing ability to volley from anywhere on the court.” As summed up by Fiona Price: “Maggie was a stalwart member of the club and one of the key characters, along with Joy, that I remember on joining the club back in 1998.” Margaret will be sadly missed. Rest in Peace.

John G Smith

Stansted Hall & Elsenham Cricket Club

Alisha Maxin will be the activator for our five to eight year old ‘All Stars’ cricket this season. Alisha was a junior at the club for a few years and now works at Essex County Cricket Club as a Community Coach. The coaching sessions for that age group will begin on Friday May 10th 5.30pm at our Stansted House ground. If you are interested in getting your youngster into these sessions, you will have to register on the ‘ecb play all stars’ website.

Our juniors have been netting indoors since just after Christmas and will move outside in mid to late April. Funding has been secured for the junior section during the winter months.

The senior teams will begin league cricket on Saturday May 4th with the 1st XI at Hockerill, the 2nd XI at home to Hockerill II, and the newly formed 3rd XI away against Takeley II. Weather permitting, friendly matches will take place before the league begins.

The club will be holding a Club v Legends match on Sunday June 30th to celebrate 50 years at our Stansted House ground. The match will be followed by a ‘Hog Roast’ and drinks. We are hoping that up to 150 club members, old members, friends of the club, and Vice Presidents will attend.

As ever new members are very welcome, please contact me as below.

To finish with a nursery rhyme; Rain, rain, go away, come again some other day, we want to go outside to play, come again some other day. Roll on summer !!!

David Brown 07788999663 david1.r.brown@gmail.com

2024 Village Calendar

April

Tuesday 2 nd	Gardening Club Spring Show	Elsenham Memorial Hall
Thursday 4 th	Annual Parish Council Meeting	OSCA 7.30pm
Friday 5 th	PCSO Visit	Shop 10.45-12noon.
Wednesday 10 th	Dragon AGM	OSCA 7pm
Thursday 18 th	Gong Bath Evening	OSCA
Saturday 20 th	Afternoon Tea	OSCA 2-4pm
Saturday 20 th	Quiz Night	Village Hall 7pm
Sunday 21 st	Pick'n'Mix Finals	Henham Tennis Courts
Monday 22 nd	District Councillors Surgery	Orwell House
Wednesday 24 th	PCSO Visit	Shop 10.45-12 noon.
Saturday 27 th	Farmers Market	Elsenham Village Hall 12.30-2.30pm

May

Friday 3 rd	Meditation	OSCA 10.30am
Tuesday 7 th	Gardening Club visit to Bressingham	
Saturday 18 th	Afternoon Tea	OSCA 2 -4pm
Sunday 19 th	Tennis Club Open Day	Henham Tennis Courts 2pm

June

Tuesday 4 th	Gardening Club Meeting	Elsenham Memorial Hall 2pm
Sunday 9 th	Henham Open Gardens	
Saturday 15 th	Afternoon Tea	OSCA 2 -4pm
Saturday 22 nd	Henham D-Day Fete	Wood End Green
Saturday 27 th	Farmers Market	Elsenham Village Hall 12:30 -2:30pm

July

Tuesday 2 nd	Gardening Club visit to Helmingham Hall	
Saturday 13 th	Tennis Club Finals	Henham Tennis Courts

September

Tuesday 3 rd	Gardening Club	Elsenham Memorial Hall 2pm
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October

Tuesday 1 st	Gardening Club visit to Wisley	
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Please email henhamdragon@gmail.com or contact one of the committee members to include future events.



THE COCK INN HENHAM



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

Phone 01279 850347

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

Facebook page: The Cock Inn Public House, Henham

Instagram: cockinnathenham

REFUSE COLLECTION FOR APRIL

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 4th, 18th
GREEN BIN (recyclables)	Thursday 11th, 25th
GREEN GARDEN WASTE	Thursday 4th, 18th

Village Shop & Post Office Opening Hours

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

Shop: -

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

Saturday 9am to 1pm

Sunday 9.30am to 12.30pm

Copy Date

Pushpa Mistry is the editor for the May edition and contributions need to arrive by **12th April**. Please e-mail: - henhamdragon @**hotmail.com**

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

Advertising Rates

Rates for one-off advertisements in the Dragon are as follows: -

Full page £60.00 Half page £30.00 Quarter page £20.00

Small ads, (non-commercial), placed by village residents £5.00.

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

Please contact our advertising team for rates and further information.

Printed by E & E Plumridge, 01223 891407



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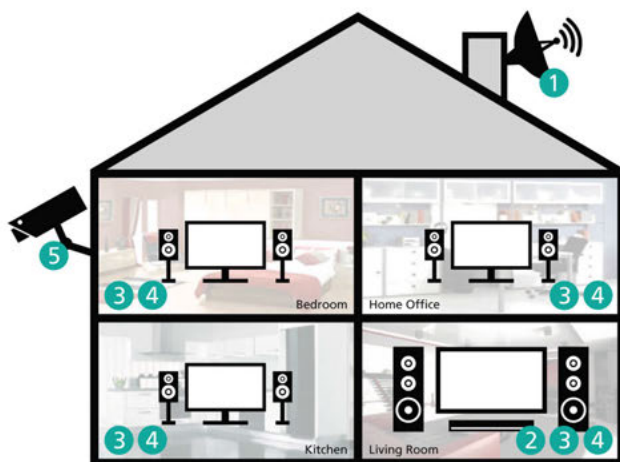
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