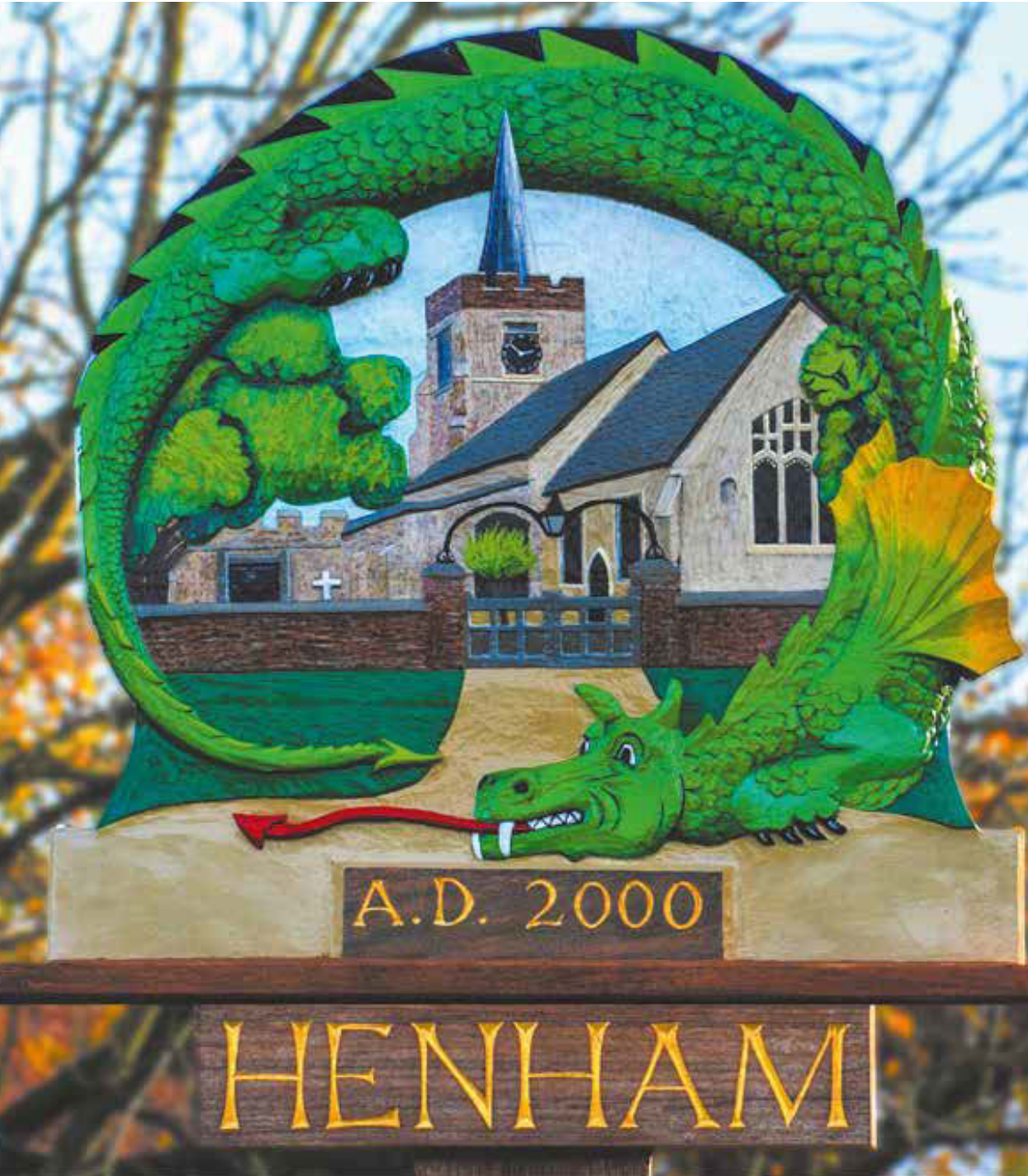


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**May 2024**

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# May 2024 Dragon



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## Editorial

In this month's edition we have enclosed a centre-page yellow pull-out section which lists the advertisers shown in The Dragon. This useful directory can be kept as a handy reference.

You will be aware of the consultation on the re-introduction of night flights at Stansted Airport; a change which will have a significant negative impact on us all in many ways. A huge plea goes out for you to respond and register your concerns. Mark Fisher summarises the detailed press release from Stansted Airport Watch (SAW).

The date of our previously very successful Henham Open Gardens is getting ever closer. There is a call for those residents in our midst to show off their talents on the day. See page 25.

The Dragon AGM was held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April. We had had an eventful year with the unexpected loss of our longstanding printers CZ Design & Print, and fortunately finding an excellent replacement, E & E Plumridge, at short notice. Financially we have just managed to pull through the last year, due mainly to us dropping the January edition and with the support of advertisers. We discussed distribution of the magazine in relation to the ongoing housing developments. The number of homes will increase by around 300 within our parish. The distribution of the free Dragon magazine beyond the village of Henham will be something to debate in the future, once the homes are all built and occupied.

**Pushpa Mistry**

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

My family and I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has contacted us following our recent car accident.

We have been overwhelmed by the offers of help, messages of support, wonderful food, cards and flowers. We feel truly grateful to all our friends and feel blessed that we live in such a caring village.

Kind regards

**Wendy Hogg**, Ship Cottage

Dear Editor,

## **Night Flights**

I was on Uttlesford Council in 2003 when the Planning Agreement was made with the then owners of Stansted Airport to restrict night flights to 13,700 per annum. By and large, this agreement has produced reasonable relationships with the Airport who have always claimed to want to be a good partner with the local community. The latest proposals by the Manchester Group for unrestricted night flights would totally shatter this consensus and would cause unacceptable levels of noise pollution for residents.

I therefore urge everyone to register their concerns and support the present arrangements being sustained at [night.flights@dft.gov.uk](mailto:night.flights@dft.gov.uk).

**David Morson**, Crow Street

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Night Flights Stansted Airport**

Recently Stansted Airport Watch (SAW) released a press release titled "YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU"

The opening statement says it all!

"The most important public consultation for a generation about the future impact of Stansted Airport is currently underway. At stake is the prospect of the Government removing all of its current statutory restrictions on night flights at Stansted, which have been in force for over 40 years"

The press release is very detailed and can be found online at [www.stanstedairportwatch.com](http://www.stanstedairportwatch.com)

It gives many reasons why there should not be an increase in night flights and also goes further to argue that night flights should be phased out altogether but by way of summary includes:

- 1) Phase out night flights altogether as they are particularly intrusive in rural areas with low background night noise levels.
- 2) At the very least, No increase should be allowed and "night" should mean night from 23.00- 07.00 with the only exception being emergency landings.
- 3) No exceptions or dispensations. This is open to abuse and misinterpretation by airport management.

- 4) Ban reverse thrust at Stansted Airport other than in exceptional circumstances. This practice is highly intrusive and unnecessary on Stansted long runway.
- 5) Health impacts. Aircraft noise particularly at night or early hours of the morning can have a very negative impact on both the physical and mental well-being of individual and local communities as a whole. The negative impact is far greater than any economic benefits.
- 6) Nights flights are already the biggest single cause of noise complaints by local residents and to increase or worse still remove all limits would be complete disregard for the welfare of all local communities.
- 7) MAG are putting profit before people whilst at the same time shamefully going against its planning agreement with UDC.

In addition to the reasons above or more simply, this is a government consultation not a planning application. As such it is vital that you respond citing your own experience of the disruption that night flights can cause or might cause, and how it affects your lives personally.

We believe the impact on Henham, surrounding villages and local residents would be devastating to say the least. As such we encourage as many residents as possible to respond to the consultation, making it very clear that we do not want more Stansted night flights and try to convince the Government not to bow to pressure from the airport. (MAG)

**Email address for replying to the consultation is:  
night.flights@dft.gov.uk**

**Mark Fisher**, Henham Parish Council



## **Your Community Needs You!**

**Press Release – 31 March 2024**

This Press Release can also be viewed on our website at <https://stanstedairportwatch.com/press-releases/your-community-needs-you/>

**Responding to the consultation:** The link to the consultation document is <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/night-flight-restrictions-heathrow-gatwick-and-stansted-airports-from-october-2025>.

You can respond online but an email response allows more flexibility to make your own points, rather than just responding to the pre-set questions. The email address is [night.flights@dft.gov.uk](mailto:night.flights@dft.gov.uk).

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## News from the Village Shop

Time to celebrate! It is 25 years since the shop started again as a volunteer led organisation. If you would like to hear more about how the shop is run, and the dedicated way in which the army of helpers play their part, then come to the forthcoming Annual General meeting.

There will be a glass of Prosecco and some delicious cake to enjoy beforehand.

**The meeting is on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 for 7.45pm in OSCA.**

There are a small number of vacancies at the moment for helpers. We require someone on Mondays from 11-1pm on alternate weeks, and also on Sunday from 9.30-12.30pm once in every 6 weeks, please. If you can help, please contact Linda Peake on 01279 850374.

**Peter Ward**

## Henham Village Hall

Spring has finally sprung and the hall continues to blossom!

We want to express our gratitude to everyone who supported our recent Easter wreath-making and quiz evenings. Your participation made these events special, and we appreciate your ongoing support which is helping the hall to flourish and grow each year.

We are considering starting a new village drama club, inspired by the Henham Dramatic Society that graced our village hall since the 1950s. If you are interested in getting involved, please let us know.

We are also looking for new members to join the village hall committee. If you are passionate about contributing to our community space, we invite you to join us.

Weekly yoga sessions continue every Monday night from 7 pm to 8 pm and Karate every Thursday at 5.30pm for beginners and 6.30pm for intermediates; and not to forget the Dinky Dragons playgroup every Monday morning from 9:30 am to 11 am, perfect for families with young children.

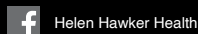
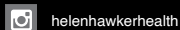
Let us continue to build a vibrant community together. Get in touch at [info@henhamvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:info@henhamvillagehall.co.uk)

**Justin Rhodes**

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# Village Calendar 2024

Please email [henhamdragon@hotmail.com](mailto:henhamdragon@hotmail.com) or contact one of our committee members to include future events

## May

Thursday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Annual HPC AGM	OSCA, 7pm
Friday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Meditation	OSCA, 10.30am
Tuesday	7 <sup>th</sup>	Gardening Club visit to Bressingham	
Wednesday	15 <sup>th</sup>	Ugley WI AGM	Ugley Village Hall, 2pm
Saturday	18 <sup>th</sup>	Afternoon Tea	OSCA, 2pm – 4pm
Sunday	19 <sup>th</sup>	Tennis Open Day	Henham Tennis Courts, 2pm
Saturday	25 <sup>th</sup>	Elsenham Farmers Market	Elsenham Village Hall, 12.30-2.30pm
Tuesday	28 <sup>th</sup>	Let's Talk Stansted AGM	Stansted Social Club
Wednesday	29 <sup>th</sup>	Village Shop AGM	OSCA, 7.30pm

## June

Tuesday	4 <sup>th</sup>	Gardening Club meeting	Elsenham Memorial Hall, 2pm
Friday	7 <sup>th</sup>	Fundraising Quiz Night Accuro (Care Services)	OSCA, 7pm
Sunday	9 <sup>th</sup>	Henham Open Gardens	10.30am – 5pm
Saturday	15 <sup>th</sup>	Afternoon Tea	OSCA, 2pm – 4pm
Saturday	29 <sup>th</sup>	Elsenham Farmers Market	Elsenham Village Hall, 12.30-2.30pm

## July

Tuesday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Gardening Club visit to Helmingham Hall	
Saturday	13 <sup>th</sup>	Tennis Club Championship Finals	Henham Tennis Courts
Saturday	27 <sup>th</sup>	Elsenham Farmers Market	Elsenham Village Hall, 12.30-2.30pm

## August

Saturday	31 <sup>st</sup>	Elsenham Farmers Market	Elsenham Village Hall, 12.30-2.30pm
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## September

Tuesday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Gardening Club	Elsenham Memorial Hall, 2pm
Saturday	28 <sup>th</sup>	Elsenham Farmers Market	Elsenham Village Hall, 12.30-2.30pm

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## October

Tuesday	1st	Gardening Club visit to Wisley	
Saturday	26 <sup>th</sup>	Elsenham Farmers Market	Elsenham Village Hall, 12.30-2.30pm

## November

Saturday	30 <sup>th</sup>	Elsenham Farmers Market	Elsenham Village Hall, 12.30-2.30pm
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# Henham Parish Council

Edited minutes of the meeting on Thursday 4 April 2024. Full minutes are available to view on the village website [www.henham.org](http://www.henham.org)

**Election of Parish Council Chair for 2024-2025 – Cllr Baker signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chair.**

**Election of Parish Council Vice-Chair for 2024-2025 - Cllr Lee signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Vice- Chair.**

## 1. Reports and Recommendations

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

- a. **Greens damage** – Nothing to report as it has been too wet, inspection early May.
- b. **Greens Bylaws** – Chair has circulated a final draft of the revised bylaws to Councillors for their comment. Chair to feedback Councillors’ comments to our solicitors.
- c. **Coronation commemoration** – Nothing to report other than Cllrs Fisher and Leech will be meeting to discuss siting of the structure and clerk to notify insurers once installed.
- d. **Tree Inspection** – Our contractors quote for the tree works £1680 plus VAT was agreed Nem con.
- e. **Church works** – Cllr Lee reported no significant issues.
- f. **Resurfacing The Row** – The Row path falls within the ownership of the Henham Parish Council as it is part of the greens. Repairs to be undertaken in due course. At present too wet to lay surface.
- g. **The Bury** – Nothing to report.
- h. **Village ponds** - Investigating title to village ponds which appear to be unregistered.

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**i. No Parking signage opposite School Lane** – A resident has contacted the Parish Council to see if the no parking sign on the greens opposite School Lane could be updated as it is currently in a bad state of repair and then re-positioned. Chair has confirmed to resident that sign will be replaced.

**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 and will be delivered shortly.

**Village ponds/Woodland** – Cllr Walker has been liaising with the National Trust and attended a productive site meeting with the Chair and a NT representative on 21/03/24. Advice is to leave the Woodland as it is due to it being a haven for wildlife. Following a discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Walker would liaise with the Woodland Trust to explore this further.

**Village Hall** – Nothing to report.

**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 5<sup>th</sup> April – 10.45-12.00, 24<sup>th</sup> April – 10.45-12.00. Chair has been liaising with the police and UDC regarding the PCSO contract renewal and attended a meeting regarding funding 28/03/24 with another meeting on 08/04/24. UDC have not invoiced the Parish Council for over a year.

**Speedwatch** – Nothing to report.

**Management of Pledgdon Green** – Nothing to report.

**Website** – Nothing to report.

**Village Broadband** – Nothing to report.

**D Day June 2024 celebrations** – Nothing to report other than confirmation that the event is being covered by the fete committee's own insurance and a D Day flag has been received by Cllr Lee.

**Stansted/Elsenham Surgery merger** – Nothing to report.

**Community Garden** – A local company has approached the Parish Council about establishing a community garden for the benefit of local residents. A meeting date originally booked for 26<sup>th</sup> March with the Chair and Cllr Walker has been postponed and will be rearranged.

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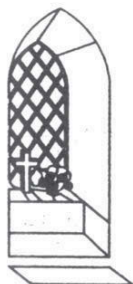
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(ii) Finance

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<u>To Whom</u> <u>(Invoice no.)</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Total</u>
M Dacey	March Salary	£462.30	£0.0	£462.30
Tees (FEB/2360-43)	Barrister advice re Village Greens	£1600.00	£320.00	£1920.00
Treecology (02012)	Church Yard hedge cutting	£350.00	£70.00	£420.00
Treecology (02021)	Cemetery hedge cutting	£350.00	£70.00	£420.00
Henham Village Shop Association Ltd (H00066)	Post Office Fees Feb- May 24	£2394.25	£0.0	£2394.25
Ricki Shelsher (1112)	Village Window and signs cleaning	£50.00	£0.0	£50.00
Philip Knott (62395)	Grass cut 8/3 & 20/3	£960.00	£0.0	£960.00

**Treasury Management Investment Policy and Strategy 2023/24 – Cllr Fisher-**  
Nothing to report.

**2023-2024 Accounts** – Q3 Accounts for 23/24 have been submitted by the clerk to Cllr Fisher for review and approval.

(iii) **Planning and Developments** –

- **UTT/24/0558/FUL** Land West Of Garrols Farm Woodgates End Broxted-change of use to create a car park. NB information of this planning application has been provided by Broxted Parish Council and this application relates to a

proposed car park for airport-related visitors, The farmland extends towards Pledgdon Green.

- **UTT/24/0859/HHF** – proposed floor rear extension, conversion and extension of existing store to form garden studio and fenestration and cladding alterations, Orchard House Carters Lane
- **UTT/24/0878/HHF**- Replacement of existing domestic outbuildings with a new outbuilding containing cart lodge, workshop and store. Alterations to existing site access, Meadside Old Mead Road

**Breaches: none**

**Appeals: none**

**Developments: Mill Road Development** : Cllr Walker is taking the lead on this and is liaising with the developer’s agents and residents. 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 Chair and Cllr Walker met with the Developers Bellway Homes and their agents on 14 March 2024. **UTT/24/0670/DFO** – proposed Details following outline application UTT/20/0604/OP for the development of 45 no. dwellings and associated landscaping and new open space - details of layout, scale, appearance and landscaping (including details to discharge condition 8), land south of Vernons Close Mill Road – sub-planning committee will review and respond before deadline on 1/5/24.

**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 has submitted its concern with UDC planning regarding proposed run off to OMR. Sub planning committee have now submitted concerns with UDC regarding proposed run off to OMR 3/4/24

**Bedwell Road - UTT/24/0543/OP** – Proposed Outline planning permission with all matters reserved except access for the erection of up to 240 dwellings with public open space, landscaping and sustainable drainage system (SuDS) and vehicular access point, Land North of Bedwell Road And East Of Old Mead Road Ugley And Henham. Chair has written to UDC requesting an extension for submitting objection due to tight time frame with Easter, UDC have agreed to extend deadline to 15/5/24. Elsenham Parish Council has instructed a noise expert, sub-planning committee have recommended the Parish Council contributes half

towards the estimated £1500 initial cost, previously agreed by Cllrs via email. The Chair informed Cllrs that the s106 applications for this project include an contribution to Elsenham Community Hall, a contribution to an extension to Elsenham Surgery and clearance work in Henham Parish following the closure of a railway crossing.

**Decisions:** none

*(iv) Highways – Update*

OMR-OML –Nothing to report other than OMR closed 3/4/24 for 3 days for EH to carry out drainage investigations and repairs.

HGV waste lorries – Cllr LeCount to review.

School parking - County Cllr Gooding has commenced steps to organise School Lane as a 'School Street' on arrival and departure times, this is ongoing, Travel Plan to be put in place as part of this process.

Toot Toot signage – County Cllr Gooding confirmed that this will be on the Highways Panel scheme for next year.

Potholes – County Cllr Gooding is reporting issues with Little Henham to EH, Cllrs raised concerns that there are also urgent issues with Thaxted Road and Pledgdon Green.

Brick End Lane – Cllr Rutterford has raised concerns with EH and Environmental Health regarding fly tipping causing blockage and heavy damage caused by diversion route.

**Residents are encouraged to also report any matters to Essex Highways direct via the Essex Highways web site [www.essexhighways.org](http://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](mailto:swilliams@uttlesford.gov.uk) Stansted Airport Limited operates a Freephone number for reporting suspected on-street airport related car parking. The Freephone number is: 0800 7312385**

## **2. Correspondence**

Sent/Received: various enquiries via PC website

Planning Applications - see above

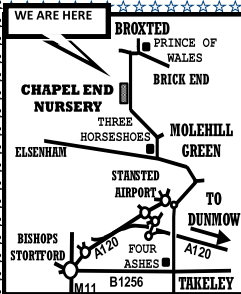
Clerk – approximately 250 emails in March 2024.

## **3. Waste and Minerals Development Issues - Local Plan Review – 2025 to 2040**

– The proposal is that the quarry is extended right down to the B1051,

# S. PERRY CHAPEL END NURSERY

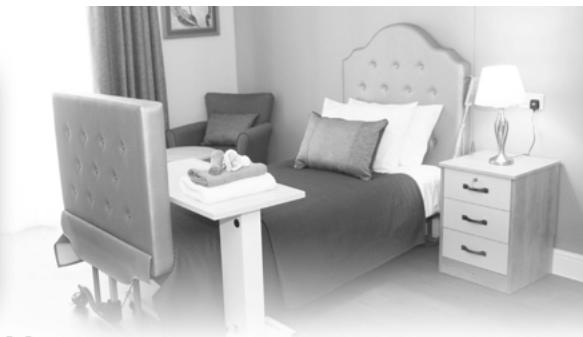
Trees, Shrubs, Roses, Fruit Trees and Bushes, Climbers, Herbs, Vegetable Plants  
 Alpines, Herbaceous, Heathers, Grasses, Ferns, Pond Plants, Hanging Baskets,  
 Basket and Tub Plants, Bedding Plants, Spring Summer & Autumn Bulbs  
 Seed potatoes, Onion sets, Shallots, Garlic, Asparagus, Rhubarb  
 Compost, Fertilisers, Chemicals, Wild Bird Food, Bird Tables, Nesting Boxes  
 Pottery, Wooden and Plastic Pots, Tubs & Troughs  
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 01799 243 005

 Fallow Drive, off Bury Water Lane, Newport, CB11 3RP

 [www.countrycourtcare.com](http://www.countrycourtcare.com)



Pledgdon Green Lane, Pledgdon Green. The consultation was originally from 6th February to 19th March 2024, extension until 9/4/24. HPC Response now completed and advice for residents posted on FB and the website. Stansted, Elsenham and Broxton Parish Councils are also responding. Cllr Rutterford to ask about the UDC response to the consultation. The Chair will find out and inform Cllrs. The Parish Council thanks all residents for their comments.

**4. SAW (Stop Stansted Watch)** – has provided advice on how to respond to the consultation regarding Stansted Airport Night Flights. Cllr Fisher to prepare the Parish Council’s response and encourage residents to respond via website/Facebook.

**5. Governance** – nothing to report

**6. Local Plan** – Documents related to the local plan can be found at: [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/new-local-plan](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/new-local-plan). **(1) Local Plan numbers allocation** - 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 have been made to the published draft local plan. Chair submitted comments on the Local Plan on behalf of Henham Parish Council. Elsenham Parish Council is supporting the fact that the 200 houses have been wrongly allocated to their parish. Sub-planning Committee has recommended to councillors that legal advice is sought now in readiness should UDC not reallocate the 200 homes in the Henham Parish, potential legal fees would be £1000-1500 plus VAT plus costs for a junior barrister for expert legal advice, this recommendation was agreed by Cllrs. The Chair and Cllr Walker attended a local plan meeting organised by UDC on 21/3/24. The Local Plan team have changed the rules and not allocated the 200 houses to Henham on a Parish basis as they are now based on a Settlement basis not a Parish basis. Therefore the 200 have been allocated to Elsenham not Henham. Minutes of planning sub-committee meeting held on 25/3/24 have been circulated to all Cllrs prior to this meeting. Solicitors have now been instructed. **(2) Neighbourhood plan** - UDC have requested HPC to decide by 8th April whether it wanted to either (a) engage in a Neighbourhood plan to allocate the 112 houses required in the Local Plan or (b) engage in a conversation with UDC Planning who would then allocate sites. Following a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would engage in the Neighbourhood Plan process, proposed by Cllr Lee, seconded by Cllr LeCount, approved nem con. Chair to confirm this to UDC in writing.

**7. Henham SOV 100 Club draw –**

**February Draw**

J Franklin conducted the Feb draw. She drew from a black bag containing all current members lottery balls. The winning numbers were:

1st Prize Number 106 (J Munday) £228

2nd Prize Number 03 (L Sullivan) £110

3rd Prize Christmas Bonus Ball Accumulator £55 Cumulative total £165

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.

### **March Draw**

J Franklin conducted the March draw. She drew from a black bag containing all current members lottery balls. The winning numbers were:

1st Prize Number 113 (Jane Smith) £228

2nd Prize Number 6 (R Heywood) £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.

Many thanks for everyone's ongoing support.

### **8. Date of Next Meeting**

The Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024, 7:00pm at OSCA. Everyone Welcome. It will be immediately followed by the Parish Council meeting at 7:30pm. Everyone Welcome

**Mareike Dacey**, Clerk

## **HENHAM**

### **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at OSCA on Thursday  
2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 at 19:00 hours**

**This is your opportunity to hear from the Parish Council what  
is happening in your village, to question Parish Councillors and  
make suggestions how we can improve our village.**

# Village Diary Regular Clubs and Meetings

## Mondays

<b>9.30 – 11.00</b>	am	Dinky Dragons (term times)	Henham Village Hall
<b>10.00 - 12.00</b>	am	Tennis, Ladies' Rusty Racquets	Henham Tennis Courts
<b>7.00 start</b>	pm	Omega running/Walking club	Meet outside Cock Inn
<b>7.00 - 8.00</b>	pm	Yoga	Henham Village Hall
<b>7.00 – 9.00</b>	pm	Table Tennis Club	OSCA

## Tuesdays

<b>9.15 - 11.15</b>	am	Badminton Club	HUSCH
<b>5.15 – 6.15</b>	pm	Beavers (term time)	Ugley Village Hall
<b>5.30 - 6.15</b>	pm	Street & Com. Dance: Age 8-10	OSCA
<b>6.30 – 7.15</b>	pm	Cubs (term times)	Ugley Village Hall
<b>6.15 - 7.20</b>	pm	Street & Com. Dance: Age 11+	OSCA
<b>7.20 - 8.20</b>	pm	Adult Dance Class	OSCA

## Wednesdays

<b>3.30 - 5.00</b>	pm	Junior Tennis	Henham Tennis Courts
<b>5.45 – 6.45</b>	pm	Beavers (term times)	Ugley Village Hall
<b>6.00 – 8.00</b>	pm	Tennis Club Sessions	Henham Tennis Courts
<b>7.00 – 8.45</b>	pm	Scouts (term times)	Ugley Village Hall
<b>7.30 – 9.00</b>	pm	Badminton Club	HUSCH

## Thursdays

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

## Fridays

<b>9.00 - 10.30</b>	am	Tennis Ladies'	Henham Tennis Courts
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## Saturdays

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

## Sundays

4.30 – 6.30

pm Tennis Club Session

Henham Tennis Courts

*There are also various classes at the Vision Fitness Gym, please visit their website for further details, [visionfitnesshenham.co.uk](http://visionfitnesshenham.co.uk)*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Stansted Mountfitchet u3a



Whether birds evolved flight to descend from the trees or to rise up from the ground will be the first question to be tackled at the Saturday Seminar on 11th May. Mike Howgate MSc FLS will discuss two controversies on the Evolution of Flight - How Birds Fly and The Dinosaur Bird Link. Sometimes known as “Dr Dinosaur”, Mike is the General Secretary and Chairman of the Amateur Geological Society of North London and is a member of the Linean Society of London. In the first part of the seminar he will look at the evolution of flight and will then move on to discussing the prevalent theory amongst paleontologists that birds arose from a group of Therapod dinosaurs.

At the General Meeting on 16th May we look forward to enjoying a performance from singer, songwriter and musician, Saffron Summerfield. Saffron’s career has taken her from live performance on TV and on John Peel’s radio show to tours abroad and playing blues guitar alongside black musicians in the Mississippi cotton fields. Her performance entitled “Milton Keynes to Mississippi” will feature different styles of guitar from the classical to the blues.

In March, Ed Fairey, Essex County Organiser for the National Garden Scheme entertained the Garden Group with the history of the NGS. He described how it came into being: why it has always supported nursing charities, and how in 1928, its foundation year, it raised over £8,000 for the Queen’s Nursing Institute. Since 1980, when it became independent of the QNI, it has benefited a wider range of health charities, including Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, The Careers’ Trust and Parkinson’s UK. In May the Garden Group will continue its own support of the NGS with a visit to “The Mount” in Roydon which opens to visitors under the scheme.

**Susan Sedgebeer**



## In the Garden

Well Dear Reader, I hope you will be happy to hear that I'm still here, dodging the rain and the puddles. It really has been a terribly wet spring, but also quite a warm one, which appears to have confused Mother Nature as much as me. As climate change continues, it becomes more and more difficult to predict when plants will be in flower. I did consider turning my garden into a paddy field and growing rice, but fortunately I regained enough of my sanity to discard the idea.

Anyway, let's get back to the serious business of gardening. Daffodils and tulips, like me, will now be past their best, but don't be tempted to cut the foliage down yet. They need to be left for about six weeks for the goodness to feed back into the bulbs. Cutting them back too early will mean smaller and fewer flowers next year. If you really need the space, you could lift them carefully, taking care not to damage the bulbs, and either heel them in in a "V"-shaped trench in a corner of the garden or, if space is at a premium, they can be dried out on a bench in the greenhouse or a warm place indoors. Resist the temptation to cut off any green growth and wait until it has all have turned brown. You can then strip them off and store the bulbs. Don't throw them into a box or bag en masse as they may rot; instead, store them in single layers, ready for re-planting later in the year.

As the flowers of rhododendrons and azaleas fade, they should be removed. This is done by carefully pinching out the flower head just above the two small buds forming on the stem. Long fingernails are invaluable for this fiddly task, but if you have carefully manicured hands, snips will do the job. Be very careful not to break off the two buds just below the flower head, as they produce next year's flowers.

I start putting my plant supports in about now, before they are really needed, as the plants can then grow into position. This is particularly important for taller plants such as delphiniums, hollyhocks achillea etc. It also, and perhaps more importantly, means you are less likely to trample on other plants in the process. Another quite clever idea, if you have any old, unwanted wire hanging baskets, is to place them, upside down, over lower growing plants. The plants will then grow up through the wire frame and will be supported without any unsightly canes.

Now here is another of my "Not a lot of people know that" tips. Most of us have a rose or two in our gardens, but not everyone knows that roses are probably the hungriest plants in the garden and when they are coming into flower they are looking for one particular type of food, potassium. Proprietary rose feeds have this, as does sulphate of potash, but for that extra boost of potassium, look no

further than your fruit bowl and the humble banana. The middle bit might be good for us, but the best bit for your roses is the skin, it contains more potassium than any other fruit skin. Chop the skins into small pieces and fork them into the soil at the base of the bush, taking care not to damage the roots. As the skins rot down they will release their potassium into the soil in a form that the plant can use immediately. The result is better flowering, with larger, longer lasting blooms, stronger scents, richer colours and bigger, brighter hips. What more could you want?

This is the month for preparing your pots and hanging baskets. There is now an amazing variety of both pots and baskets available in the shops and garden centres. Here are a few simple tips to use when planting pots. Firstly, if you are planting up new pots, instead of putting broken crocks in the bottom for drainage, use broken up polystyrene. This serves a two-fold purpose. Firstly, the pots are lighter and easier to handle and it is a good way of disposing of old seed trays and packaging which is not recyclable. Secondly, you don't have to use as much new compost to fill the pots. I keep a supply of spent compost, mix in some organic, slow-release fertilizer (I use blood, fish and bone) and use it to part fill the pots about half to two thirds full. I then top up the pot with fresh compost. You should, however, always fill hanging baskets with fresh compost.. If you use hanging baskets which are lined with polythene, remember to cut a few slits to allow drainage. Nowadays not many people use sphagnum moss as a liner, but if you do, put a small circle of polythene in the bottom of the basket to conserve water.

A large percentage of gardeners grow tomatoes. These days you can find them growing in the greenhouse, in the borders, in tubs and even in hanging baskets. No matter where they are, it makes no difference to those nasty little whiteflies. They will find them wherever are. A simple and cheap way to deter them is to plant French marigolds in amongst them. For some reason, known only to themselves, they can't stand the smell and will hopefully keep away. Although this seems to work with all varieties, I am told that "*Boy-Oh-Boy*" is the most effective.

Well Dear Reader, I don't know where the time goes, but I appear to have reached the end of this month's episode. It only remains for me to once again wish you the usual "Happy Gardening".

**Norman Elson**



# QUIZ NIGHT

**Friday 7th June**

7pm for 7:30pm start  
at OSCA, Henham

**Hosted by Ollie Bullett**

**Bring your own food  
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**£8.50**

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# Henham Tennis Club News

As I begin this month's report, I note that today is the first day of the cricket season, and inevitably it is raining! Fear not, however as Spring is just around the corner: daffodils are blooming, the grass is growing far too fast, my rhubarb is taking over the garden and the heating bills are diminishing as temperatures increase. The tennis courts await the resurgence of players eager to blow the dust off their rackets and enjoy that exhilarating feel of the ball bouncing off the strings of the racket again. But before the new season begins it is time to reflect on last year. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the club's Annual General Meeting so I am sincerely grateful to Fiona (Membership Secretary) for her detailed minutes, from which I will outline the main points.

Simon Price (Chairman) opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. First up was the Treasurer's Report by Tony Eaton. 2023 was again a financially successful year with member's subscriptions and social activities, primarily the quiz, making significant contributions. Expenditure was below average with the major spend being on court maintenance. Major work was also carried out on the hedges together with grass cutting. As stated at last year's AGM, the anticipated heavy expenditure in the next few years for court surfacing and new fencing means that the club must continue to build up funds. It was outlined, even though we do not have lights, that our subscription rates compare favourably with other clubs as we offer quality coaching, social and competitive tennis and we attract significant membership from outside the village.

There was a slight decrease in membership last year due to a variety of reasons: players moving away from the area, health issues/injuries etc. New members were a mix of new residents and younger families in Henham, those being coached by Monica and Katie, plus some from outlying villages. The coaching front has remained stable. Monica reported that the Rusty rackets has a reliable core attendance, a group who are eager to learn, form good friendships and enjoy getting together socially e.g. the summer and Christmas lunches. Monica announced that the Friday Ladies group, started many years ago as the Ladies 2nds 'practice session', will be curtailed bringing an era to an end! It is encouraging to report that there are now a number of players who are improving rapidly and have joined Pick 'n Mix sessions, plus a few who, it is hoped will soon represent Henham in League matches.

Katie Harris, our other coach, informed the meeting that there are a lot of children who are taking part in tennis, varying in age from 2 to 13 years old! There are three Saturday morning groups which cover all age groups. Individual target cards

cover the red, orange and green balls which give focus for the levels. Keeping interest going during the cold, dark winter months is always a challenge but running some sessions in school has certainly helped. Katie hopes to bring in more competitions in future as these have been very successful this last year. Looking ahead, it is hoped that more older children would start to play tennis and therefore increase our junior membership.

In the Small Club's Winter League the horribly wet and windy weather made life difficult but our teams soldiered on with the following results:

Mixed 1<sup>st</sup>. 2<sup>nd</sup> in division 1 with 81 points (Dunmow 1<sup>st</sup> with 82!)

Ladies 1<sup>st</sup>. 4<sup>th</sup> in division 1

Ladies 2<sup>nd</sup>. 5<sup>th</sup> in division 3

Men's 1<sup>st</sup>. 3<sup>rd</sup> in division 2

The club had excellent Summer League results:

Mixed 1<sup>st</sup>. 2<sup>nd</sup> in division 1

Ladies 1<sup>st</sup>. 2<sup>nd</sup> in division 1

Ladies 2<sup>nd</sup>. 2<sup>nd</sup> in division 4

Men's 1<sup>st</sup>. 1<sup>st</sup> in 2<sup>nd</sup> division – by 18 points!

Congratulations to all the players and well done to Monica, Phil and Charlotte for fielding teams getting all the matches played; no mean feat!

Next year Henham will be running the Essex Small Club's League (sincere thanks to Monica and Fiona who will be masterminding procedures). We hope we will be able to match the competence of the other three clubs who have taken on the task, and do a good job for and on behalf of the club.

Moving on to maintenance. Major court works will be required over the next 5 years. Regular cleaning and moss treatment is helping to prolong the courts' life. The fencing around the courts continues to be monitored and work will be fitted into the court works schedule when most appropriate. Miranda Roberts was thanked for planting up the flower pots and Fiona has produced up to date photo posters to replace the old displays in the clubhouse. The outside will need a repaint this season.

Simon opened his Chairman's Report stating that it is encouraging that membership is still way above pre-covid levels. The February Quiz was well attended and thanks went to Peter Ward and to all who organised the event while Fiona and he were house bound with covid.

The Pick 'n Mix Finals was won by Isaac Wilson and Sean Munday with the Plate Final having to be abandoned.

# HENHAM DRAGON DIRECTORY OF ADVERTISERS



**MAY 2024**

This *Directory* contains the names and telephone numbers of those people and businesses that will be advertising in *The Dragon* throughout the year April 2024 to March 2025.

The *Directory* is printed as a pull-out centre sheet so that you can keep it near your telephone. However, please note that *The Dragon* Editorial Committee is not acting as agent for any of the advertisers and cannot vouch or accept liability for any advertising claims or work carried out by such persons or businesses.

To find out more about the services offered by the individuals and companies listed please refer to their advertisement in *The Dragon* which can be located at the page letter indicated in the final column.

**When talking with any advertiser listed please mention that you saw their advert in *The Dragon*.**

## BUILDING AND HOME MAINTENANCE

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Aerial Satellite Services	SDS Installations	07771 881042	B
All DIY Services	Gary King	07951 452602	L
Building & Plumbing	G S Craft	01371 223100	Q
Chimney Sweep	Glynns Sweeps	01279 424983	L
Chimney Sweep/Log Burner Fitter	Henham based firm	07305 224161	K
Electrical Services	CK Electrical Installations	07597 974945	A
Electrician	Tony Wood	07714 300920	I
Floorcoverings	Hastingwood Flooring	07809 396561	B
General Maintenance	Ray on the Hill	07790 509556	B
Handyman Services	DPS (Simon)	07970 905360	Q
Hardwood Timber	Arbocare	01279 814899	I
Heating and Plumbing	Shelford Heating	01223 833426	P
Home Improvements	Camwood	07714 300920	Y
Metal Fabrication	Henham Essex Metal Fabrications	07812 348090	R
Painting Specialist	Mat Duxbury	07810 250426	M
Painting and Decorating	John Coleby	07939 070818	F
Pest Removal	Pest Assured	07838 165171	F
Plumbing	P Knight Plumbing	07985 640650	E
Plumbing and Heating	Pike's Plumbing & Heating	07889 140035	N
Plumbing and Heating	Elite Engineering	07950 457022	L
Roofing Specialists	ED Roofing	07469 091001	F
Roofing	S G Cooper Roofing	01920 468392	I
Waste Removal	LTH Waste Removal	01279 504638 01371 873003	E
Windows and Doors	Rosewell Windows & Doors	07734 885582	P



## CLEANING IRONING & UPHOLSTERY SERVICES

Carpet, Upholstery and Stone Floor Cleaning	Rothwell's Carpet Cleaning	01223 832928 01638 428060	Y
Eco Cleaning/Ironing	Dunmow Ironing Parlour	01371 878399	A
Leather Repairs & Recolouring for Cars, Boats, Bags & more	Cambridge Concours	07920 522005	O
Oven Cleaning	Clear Ovens	01279 898996	O
Re-upholstery Service	Welham Furniture	07969 306054	G

## FUNERAL SERVICES

Funeral Directors	Daniel Robinson & Sons	01279 655477	Y
Monumental Masons	J Day & Son	01279 654555	G

## GARDEN SERVICES

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Garden Nursery	S Perry Chapel End Nursery	01279 850771	H
Tree Surgery	Arbocare	07885 444318	B
Tree Surgery & Supply Garden Products	G J Cox Farm and Forestry	01279 850495	P

## HEALTH

Chiropody & Podiatry	R Handford & Colleagues	01279 652249	D
Dentistry/Hygienist	Castle Dental	01279 815166	L
Gong Baths/Reiki Massage	Calm from Within	07930 334269	A
Osteopathy	Quendon Osteopathy	01799 543444	I
Sports Massage /Pilates	Helen Hawker Health	07910 578643	D
Hair and Aesthetics	Emine Clinique	01799 522912	R
Hairdressing	Options Hair Design	01279 812665	J

## LEISURE

Event Toilet Hire (UK) Ltd	Luxury Toilet Hire	01279 504638 01371 873003	Q
Holiday Cottages	Parsonage Stables	07890 625408	A
Public House	The Cock Inn	01279 850347	X

## PETS & ANIMALS

Aquatic Centre	Weston Aquatics	01799 513220	J
Dog Grooming Services	Lydia Loki	07960 64652	Q
Pet & Wild Bird Supplies/Key Cutting	Happy Tails (Dunmow) Ltd	01371 875840	E
Veterinary Services	Mercer & Hughes (Stansted)	01279 813780	C

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Computer Services	Taylor Computer Services	07926 289749	D
Mortgage Broker	George Petch	07867 502935	D

## CARE HOMES

Country Court	The Grange Care Home	01799 243005	H
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## RETAIL

Bespoke Furniture	Furniture by Design	01279 815700	E
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## VEHICLE SERVICES

Vehicle Repair & Testing	D Bonney & Sons Manuden Malc, Neil or Craig)	01279 813315 01279 815946	N
Vehicle Repair & Testing	Wright Cars	DAY07841 473522	G
Vehicle Servicing, MOTs and Repair	Stanley Motors	01279 850901	M

The Club Championships Finals served up a 'changing of the guard' with our new younger members to the fore:

Men's Singles: Isaac Wilson beat Shaun Hunt in a pulsating contest.

Men's Doubles: Phil Holder and Amrik Braico retained the title beating Shaun Hunt and Lawrence Ward.

Ladies Doubles: Holders Fiona Price and Helen Hawker retained their title beating Monica Sutherland and Gill Foster.

Mixed Doubles: Ali Lafferty and Monica Sutherland beat Shaun Hunt and Ella Dutton.

The traditional damp barbecue followed!

Two Ladies tournaments were wrecked by rain in July and October, and an end of season tournament involving 20 players was again disrupted by rain!

The Mini Development tournament run by Katie in October was also rain affected but much enjoyed.

The first round of our restructured Pick 'n Mix Tournament was held in November (again cut short by rain) and has proved very popular. The Finals of this competition will take place on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 2pm. Surely the sun will shine!!

The Christmas Dinner at the Cock was well attended and much enjoyed, especially the entertaining limerick interlude! The annual mulled wine fuelled Tinsel Tournament actually took place....no snow, no ice and NO RAIN!

The current committee was re-elected with Nic Mamier elected on in place of Heather Brown who has moved abroad. After a mammoth stint of 35 years (!) our treasured Treasurer is retiring. He explained that it is definitely time to hand over the reins, especially as he no longer plays, and it is important that the Treasurer is involved in the life of the club. A restructure was voted into place with Simon stepping down as Chair but 'like a phoenix rising' will take on the role of Treasurer. John Smith has agreed to take on the Chair for one year.

Simon thanked Fiona for her work on membership and the new posters; Monica and Katie for their coaching; Monica for her all round commitment to the club; Monica, Charlotte and Phil for their hard work as Team captains; Vanessa Gibbons for her role as Welfare Officer; John for his Dragon Reports; all members of the committee for all they do for the club; Brian Brooks for IT and maintenance support; Miranda Roberts for the flower displays. There are numerous others whose commitment ensures the smooth running of the club: thank you to all those not mentioned.



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Finally, and most importantly, Simon thanked Tony for his dedication during thirty plus years as Club Treasurer. In recognition of this momentous achievement Simon made a special presentation to him of a magnum of Chateau Batailley 2009 which he had chosen particularly because the reviews reminded him of Tony: “Ready to enjoy now but still has life of two decades ahead of it.” “A lot of depth and character.” “A nose of superb precision.” “Not immensely powerful but very refined and focussed.” Tony will certainly be a hard act to follow. What more can one say!



### **Dates for the diary:**

Open Day – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2pm (see separate advert)

Club Championship Finals Day – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July

Monica thanked Simon for his chairmanship, guidance and support over the last 10 years. She also announced that John would step down from the Tournament Committee with his new role as Chair and that Nic Mamier would take his place. Simon also announced the death of Maggie Smith, one of the Club’s Life members who was a stalwart of the Club when he and Fiona first joined in 1997. Various members shared memories of Maggie’s unique tennis style and abilities. (See last month’s Dragon).

With the clocks having gone forward Club Sessions have now resumed on Wednesday evenings: 6pm onwards.

Sunday sessions are due to start again on 28<sup>th</sup> April: 4.30 – 6.30.

To round off this month’s report here is another limerick:

Have you seen ‘tricky Charlie’s serve yet?  
He says it’s one no one can get.  
And the players all fear it,  
From the way that I hear it,  
Cause it bounces back over the net!

**John G Smith**

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**HENHAM TENNIS CLUB OPEN DAY**  
**SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024**  
**Carters Lane, Henham CM22 6AQ**  
**2 pm – 5 pm**



*Everyone welcome*

*BBQ/Refreshments*

*Have a 'go' on court*

*Ball machine*

*Meet some of the members*

*Fun for everyone!*

**We look forward to seeing you!**

## From the Parish Registers

### Burial of Ashes:

- On 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 in Elsenham Churchyard, Barbara Rose Nunn.

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

Vicar	01279 850480 louis.wilson@heuchurch.co.uk	Rev. Louis Wilson
Church Office	01279 814285	Anna Hicks
Church e-mail	<a href="mailto:office@heuchurch.co.uk">office@heuchurch.co.uk</a>	
Church website	<a href="http://www.heuchurch.co.uk">www.heuchurch.co.uk</a>	

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



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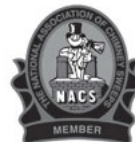


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# Church News

## Reverend Louis Wilson writes...



For the last 11 years, we have attended an event in Eastbourne called Bible by the Beach. A few years ago, Helen Roseveare the medical missionary was a speaker and told us this story about a trip to America.

She arrived at Chicago Airport and found that she had left all her travel documents at her friend's house: wallet, passport and ticket. These were the days before any mobiles or internet.

She joined the check-in queue anyway, got to the front and said: My name is Helen Roseveare, I don't have a ticket or passport or wallet - is there anything you can do? No, came the answer, there is nothing we can do.

She went to the back of the queue and she prayed. She moved back to the front and tried again. This time the attendant said: There is one possibility: If you can get someone to act as your guarantor to prove you are who you say you are, and to pay for your ticket, we'll let you on the flight....

Helen Roseveare did not know where to turn so asked: *Do you have a Chicago City phonebook? Would you be willing to look someone up for me?*

Sure, said the attendant – who shall I look up?

Dr Roseveare said, *I want you to start at the letter A – and I want you to stop when you reach the first name that has Reverend after it.*

So the attendant started looking and said:  
I've found one, there is a Rev. Atkins.

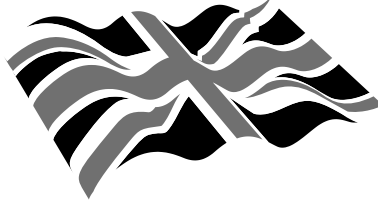
*Please would you be willing to call him for me?*

The attendant calls. A man picks up the phone. Yes, it's Rev. Atkins here. You have Helen Roseveare at the airport? I'd be delighted to act as her guarantor and I will come right away.

The man arrived at the airport, paid the money, she got the ticket and was able to go on her way. But before she left, he said to her: Mrs. Roseveare, you might be wondering why I've done this. Please would you allow me to explain?

Years ago, I was travelling round Asia with my girlfriend. We weren't Christians and to be honest we got up to some pretty bad stuff: drugs, alcohol, everything. We found ourselves in Kabul in Afghanistan. We were both desperately ill. We

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didn't know what to do. We knocked on the door of the British consulate. They let us come in and use a tiny room.

My girlfriend went straight to sleep, but I couldn't. Eventually, I opened the bedside cabinet and found nothing except a book called *Give me this mountain*.

*[Give me this mountain is the autobiography of Dr. Helen Roseveare]*

That night, I read your book and I became a Christian. My girlfriend and I both recovered, and we got back to America. My girlfriend also became a Christian, and is now my wife. For the last 15 years I've been pastor of a church here in Chicago. Mrs. Roseveare, after all these years, it is a pleasure to meet you!

Friends, you never know what might happen if you read a good book. With best wishes,

**Louis**

*Don't forget!*

## **HENHAM OPEN GARDENS**

(in conjunction with the National Open Garden scheme)



**OSCA Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June 10.30 – 5pm**

*Some 11 gardens to visit,  
£5 pp, under 15 years free*

*In addition!*



## **“MADE in HENHAM”**

A display/sale of handicrafts from our talented Henham residents.

Please come forward if you have items or know someone who does.  
*(We know they exist due to the numerous displays in the Village shop).*

*Tables free of charge at OSCA but a small donation is always welcome.*

*Donations of any unwanted plants on the day are welcome too, thank you.*

*All proceeds from the day (with exception of craft sales) will be shared with:  
Old School (OSCA) & Henham new School*

*Information*

*Gerry: 07599 158151 - [gands1987@gmail.com](mailto:gands1987@gmail.com)  
Amanda: 07846 010132 - [ajmower63@gmail.com](mailto:ajmower63@gmail.com)*



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# Church Events in Our Villages in May 2024

## Church Services

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May

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

18:00 Sunday@6, HUSCH\*, Henham

### Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May

19:45 Ascension Day Communion  
Service, Ugley Church

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May

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 19<sup>th</sup> May

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 26<sup>th</sup> May

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

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



## Olympic Adventure Holiday Club

30 & 31 May 2024 (May Half-Term)

Henham & Ugley School Hall

10:00 am to 2:00 pm for YR to Y6

Olympic games, songs, quizzes,  
competitions, jokes, craft and a book in the  
Bible called Acts. For a booking form,  
email [office@heuchurch.co.uk](mailto:office@heuchurch.co.uk)

## Other regular events

### SUNDAYS:

Elsenham & Henham Sunday Club/

Explorers (Reception-Y5)

Starts at EVH then onto

Old Franks, Elsenham, 10.15am

Sundays: 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>

Pathfinders (Y6-Y9)

HUSCH\*, Henham 6.00pm - leave from

service to meet in the Church Hall,

Henham. Sundays: 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>

Crammin' (Y10-Y13)

HUSCH\*, Henham 6.00pm - leave from

service to meet at OSCA, Henham.

Sundays: 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>

### MID-WEEK AND SATURDAY:

Start the Week with Prayer

Church Hall, Henham 9.30am

Mondays: 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>

Seekers After School Bible Club

(Y3-Y4) Old Frank's 3.20pm Mondays:

13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>

Christian Play (Y1-Y2)

Rowan House, Elsenham 3.15pm

Tuesdays: 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>

Little Fishes Pre-School Group

Church Hall, Henham 10.30am

Thursday: 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>

Little Fishes Pre-School Group

Elsenham Memorial Hall 10.00am

Fridays: 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>

Church Lunch Club

Elsenham Memorial Hall 12.30pm

Fridays: 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>

Afternoon Tea

OSCA, Henham 2.00pm

Saturday: 18<sup>th</sup>

For information on all these events, please  
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# Remembering Margaret (Maggie) Smith

## 27May 1934 – 4 March 2024

### From Malcolm's tribute given at the funeral service

Mum was not evacuated during the war. Growing up in South East London throughout the Blitz she developed a stoical, unsentimental character. Methodical and analytical, she spent much of her working life in laboratories beginning at Guy's Hospital and ending at the Royal Marsden where she worked on some of the earliest pioneering work in cancer research alongside Sir Roy Caine – a legend in groundbreaking surgery in the earliest days of the NHS.

While working at the Royal Marsden, she also attended night school where she met and married Dad. Having had the three of us, she returned to work for a short while, as a Lab Technician at Reigate Priority School, until some 50 years ago, when Karen, Geraldine and I were quite young, we moved as a family from Redhill to Henham.

To say Mum threw herself into village life would be an understatement. She was a regular churchgoer, choir member, took her turn in the flower rota and, in the late eighties, with the restoration of the bells at St Mary's Church, she signed up to learn the art of bellringing. There was, of course also tennis, which was akin to Mum's second faith - Wimbledon was treated like a religious observance every summer and she played tennis regularly for over 30 years. Being tall she had a formidable service and a devastating cross court volley. As well as being a stalwart of Redhill, Henham and Stansted tennis clubs Mum also represented the Essex WI and actually played with Joy Lafferty in a national doubles final at London's legendary Queens Club.

Along with tennis, church, science and bellringing Mum shared with Dad a passion for growing things - not so much flowers but fruit and vegetables. Our chest freezer groaned annually with the surplus of raspberries, strawberries, gooseberries, rhubarb, plums, runner beans oh so many runner beans! I often wondered if this zeal for self-sufficiency came from those early years during the Blitz. She almost certainly saw destruction and chaos no young child should really have ever seen.

But in the end, I hope she will forgive this one indulgence, as I say "Game Set and Match, Margaret Smith, Good Game !

*[Editor: John Smith's report in last month's Dragon also included several fond memories of Margaret expressed by fellow Henham Tennis Club Members when they heard of her death]*

**Sheena Bigland**



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7th April 2024, supporting Alzheimer’s Research UK

We are very pleased to say, the results are in.....

After our many village training runs in our colourful outfits, our London Landmarks Half Marathon challenge is complete. We finished in 3hrs 1min and it was an amazing and emotional day supporting Alzheimer’s Research UK.

We both thoroughly enjoyed the experience and are so grateful to those who donated and for the many words of encouragement and support.



If you wish, there is still time to support Alzheimer’s Research UK with a donation, by using the link or QR code given.

Many thanks again everyone for all the support, very much appreciated. All the best.

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jamie-laycock1](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jamie-laycock1)

Mark and Jamie Laycock



# Newport & District Flower Club

We all had a wonderful evening for our March Workshop. We had invited the Scouts to join us and they all enjoyed making a spring flower posy in a bag.

One of our ladies showed us what happens when you put different food colourings into a flower vase full of daffodils, tulips and hyacinths as the flowers drink up the water their petals turn to different shades of colour. The scouts were very interested in this, especially as the yellow petals on the daffodils in blue food coloured water turned green.

After the Scouts had left we were shown how to manipulate an aspidistra leaf to make a holder for our flowers, see photograph of aspidistra leaf with pink rose and gypsophila.



**Our May flower club meeting will be on 22<sup>nd</sup> May** with a D.I.Y night with demonstrations by some of our talented members. Please come along and see how they put together an arrangement, which you can then try at home.

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

**Patricia Sanz**

## News from the Gardens of Easton Lodge

THE GARDENS OF  
**EASTON LODGE**

We managed to open on the last two Thursdays in March, setting us up well for the new season starting in April. It was lovely to see visitors again, after that miserable wet snowdrop season!

May is a lovely month in the Gardens. It is when the cow parsley and foxgloves take over. Other highlights at the beginning of the month are the camassia in the mini orchard in the kitchen garden, the blossom on the ornamental cherries and the fresh leaves of the acers. At the end of the month the laburnum walk bears gold, the handkerchiefs waft on their branches in the breeze and the wild orchids start to bloom on the bank to the Glade.



For our Sunday 19 May Open Day we are delighted that Jane Frederick is showing her **Garden Seekers exhibition**. Jane's artistic lens was focused on six historic gardens in Essex, including Easton Lodge. We will be displaying the relevant history from our archives and Jane's inspirations as well as her art works. It is also our **Nature Day** at the Gardens, and we will be joined again by an expert biologist for pond-dipping and other nature activities and stalls for all the family.

The Gardens are also open every Thursday, with our produce stall selling fresh vegetables from the walled kitchen garden – perhaps rhubarb and asparagus?

The Gardens are open from 11.00am and our volunteers provide refreshments. Tickets can be bought in advance for Sundays. There is no charge for children under 16 years old. Visitors can bring picnics and dogs on leads are welcome. For more information about tickets, times, activities and refreshments go to [www.eastonlodge.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.eastonlodge.co.uk/whats-on)

**Jill Goldsmith**



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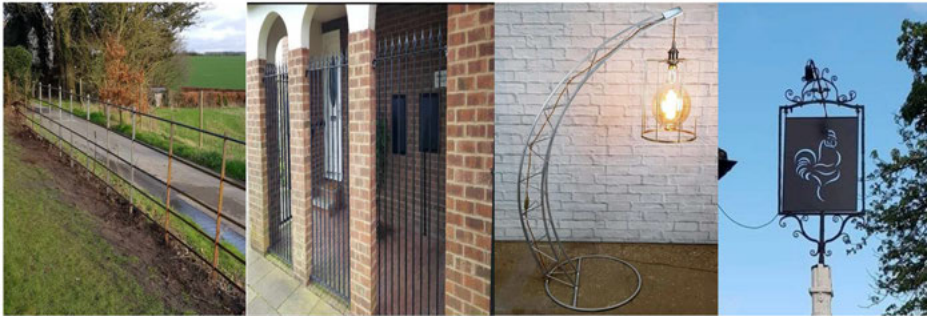
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# Stansted Hall & Elsenham Cricket Club

Juniors are now being coached outdoors ahead of the new season. All coaches are fully qualified and all relevant paperwork is up to date. The club continues to look for young players at all age groups although our squad numbers are limited enabling everybody to play in matches. We are delighted to confirm that Anya Shrubsole will be visiting the ground during the summer to give our youngsters a training session. Anya played for England between 2008-2022 and was a two time World Cup winner. Famously she took 6 wickets in the 2017 final at Lords.

As mentioned before the club is celebrating 50 years of cricket at Stansted House this year. On April 28<sup>th</sup> 1974 the first match on our beautiful ground was against a Robin Hobbs XI. Robin played cricket for Essex and England and his team included Keith Fletcher, a young Graham Gooch, and many of the Essex 1<sup>st</sup> XI at that time. Unfortunately Robin died recently but he will be missed by many as he was a 'fun' character. The club team that day included Colin Cowdrey.

Any new potential players, supporters, or cricket enthusiasts interested in joining our club please contact me as below.

**David Brown**

07788999663

[david1.r.brown@gmail.com](mailto:david1.r.brown@gmail.com)

## Ugley WI

The entertainer at our March meeting was Chris Bishop, formerly vicar of Berden and Manuden. He now writes songs and sings them at venues all over Essex, accompanying himself on a variety of musical instruments. He brought some of these with him to our WI, including an unfamiliar one which he explained was an Apalatian dulcimer. He played two tunes for us on this beautiful instrument including 'Lord of the dance'.

Chris explained that he had written no less than thirty songs during lock-down, including one entitled 'Two meters apart' which we all joined in with; and one that he had written especially for the WI. A humorous song featuring a variety of seven vegetables required the participation of seven of our members; each of the 'brave' ladies being asked to hold aloft an artistic image of a vegetable!

To bring our very entertaining afternoon to a close members were issued with an Easter egg and enjoyed refreshments, our usual tea and biscuits being enhanced

with the addition of coffee cup cakes decorated with mini eggs made by our secretary Betty Francis!

Our May meeting which will be the **A.G.M** will be held in Ugley Village Hall on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm**. Visitors will be most welcome.

**Andrea Fitt**  
01279 815922

## **Let's Talk Stansted**

We held a very successful **Debt Awareness Session Talk** at the Stansted Social Club on 26<sup>th</sup> March.

Representatives from the Citizens Advice Bureau talked about how they can advise people and support them with debt issues; and members from the Saffron Building Society discussed their money health checks that can be arranged and how to make contact when in mortgage arrears. Plus there was a member of our committee bravely sharing her own story on how she has come through some tough times but with support has come out the other side.

If you would like more information please visit these webpages -  
<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/>  
<https://www.saffronbs.co.uk/about>

Now the clocks have changed **Muddy Walkers** will be at 7.30pm on a Wednesday evening meeting at the Co-Op as usual. All are welcome to join, so feel to bring any friends or even furry friends along.

Mental Health Awareness week is 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May with the theme of "**Movement: Moving more for our mental health**" so watch out for any events that many be happening.

Also a reminder of the **Let's Talk Stansted AGM** which is scheduled for **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May** at the Stansted Social Club. We would love to see your attendance to find out what the committee have been doing and have planned for the future.

As always we are here for you if you need to talk so please contact us on **[info@letstalkstansted.org](mailto:info@letstalkstansted.org)**

**Vanessa Morgan**





## ELSENHAM COMMUNITY CHOIR

**Did you know that singing in a choir is believed to be so good for you, that doctors are considering prescribing it?**

**Just 30 minutes of group singing can significantly improve positive emotions & mood.**

If you like making new friends, achieving new goals, doing things that are good for you whilst having a laugh, eating chocolate, going home with a smile on your face, oh, and singing too, then come and join us at the **Elsenham Community Choir**, because that's what we do!

We meet on the first and third Tuesday of every month at 7.00pm until 8.30pm in Elsenham Village Hall (by Elsenham Primary School).

There are no auditions at our choir, everyone is welcome, just come along and sing!

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



Now it is getting warmer and brighter, and we are all getting excited about summer being on its way, why not come out and celebrate by visiting our **village Farmers Market on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May 12.30-2.30pm?**

We have a great range of products being sold here and we try really hard to ensure that we only sell consumable produce or allied products by small independent sellers, and that everything is as local as possible.

Our sellers can vary from month to month and their products can also be seasonal, but the quality is always tip top and there is something for everyone.

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.

If you are not sure there will be anything you want, come for a coffee and cake and look at the produce at the same time, it's a win win!

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

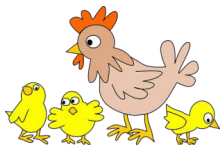
The markets for the rest of the year are on **SATURDAY 25<sup>th</sup> MAY, 29<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 27<sup>th</sup> JULY, 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST, 28<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 26<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 30<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER (all things festive & more!)**

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



## Daisy May's Farm

Hall Road, Elsenham, CM22 6DN

Life has been SO exciting on the farm recently and we have a steady flow of lambs being born and some of our customers have even been lucky enough to see this happening!!

We are open until 4pm every day. You can come and see the all the babies and you can also feed the lambs their milk by bottle (12 noon, 2pm and 4pm), and also hold the adorable chicks and ducklings and get to know them better! These lambs might look like butter wouldn't melt in their mouths, but trust me, come lights out, it's like a scene from Shaun the Sheep.....absolutely hilarious!!

There are lots of other animals to see and feed and there are also so many activities to enjoy on the farm, from exploring the Woodland Trail, the train ride, playing on the activity equipment, splashing in the stream, seasonal arts & crafts and competitions.

We also have food and refreshments available, so all you have to do is come and enjoy yourselves!

There is no need to pre-book. Entry is only £6 each, but please be aware we have no credit card facilities. Most importantly, **WEAR WELLIES** if it's wet!

If your **child wants a party to remember**, then why not book one with us? We can offer a truly individual occasion that they can enjoy with their friends and all our lovely animals! We also **welcome school parties** and can tailor the visit to suit your needs, so do get in touch to have a chat and find out more.

Always keep an eye on our Facebook page for animal updates and other important information.



# The Hundred Parishes Society

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



As day length increases and the air becomes warmer, plants put out new shoots. Many insects emerge and birds pair up, preparing to breed. Since the 1960's the average minimum winter temperatures have been rising. Snow fall is now a rarity, and frosty days are much less frequent. The current growing season is almost a month longer than 50 years ago. Primroses and bluebells are opening earlier. Researchers recorded that the first flowering of some 406 plant species has advanced by almost a month since 1986! This has a knock-on effect for the time of emergence of pollinating insects such as bees and butterflies; some are adapting to the warmer climate.



Littlebury – bluebells in Howe Wood

Hedgerow shrubs and trees are leafing and flowering earlier too, providing food for so many hungry caterpillars which are ideal food for nestlings. Hedgerows are a valuable wildlife habitat, often providing a living framework to the landscape and our rural heritage. Long-established hedges grow in soil that is rich in stored carbon and older trees within the hedgerow also hold large stores of carbon.



Newport – caterpillars on a stripped hedgerow

A recent planning application to fell an ancient hedgerow oak close to Clavering led to a vigorous and successful campaign by residents to save it. This tree is now registered on the Ancient Tree Inventory, a record similar to the one for listed buildings. There are more trees in local hedgerows that could be recorded - details of how to do this can be found on:

<https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/how-to-record>.

National Hedgerow Week organised by the Tree Council runs from 6th May to 12th May and is timed to showcase hedgerows resplendent with fresh new growth and full of wildlife. Please enjoy one or more of the many walks listed on the Society's website - and consider recording some of our wonderful old trees.

**Tricia Moxey, Trustee**



# 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](http://www.thecockinnhenham.co.uk)*

*Facebook page: The Cock Inn Public House, Henham*

*Instagram: cockinnathenham*

### **REFUSE COLLECTION FOR MAY**

Brown, black and green bin collections are made in most of Henham on Thursdays but there are a few areas where collections are made on Tuesdays.

<b>BROWN BIN (kitchen leftovers)</b>	<b>collected every week</b>
<b>GREEN BIN (recyclables)</b>	<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup></b>
<b>GARDEN WASTE</b>	<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>BLACK BIN (non-recyclables)</b>	<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup></b>

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

Post Office:- Open Mon, Wed & Friday 9am to 12 noon  
Shop:- Monday to Friday 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 4.30pm  
Saturday 9am to 1pm, Sunday 9.30am to 12.30pm  
**Telephone 850644**

**DEADLINE for submitting articles for the June edition is Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May.** Please send your contributions to **Miranda Roberts** by email as an attachment to **henhamdragon@hotmail.com**

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

### **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 call our advertising team for further information or email [henhamdragon@hotmail.com](mailto:henhamdragon@hotmail.com) for details.**



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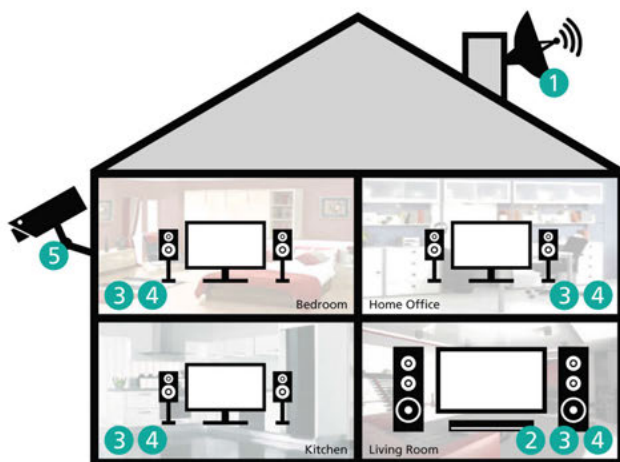
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