

ELSENHAM VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY
MINUTES OF MEETING 10th September 2025

MEMORIAL HALL ELSENHAM

Those Present:

Ray Franklin Chairman	Paul Salvidge	Heather Salvidge
Dave Verlander	Mike Rea	Margaret Rea
Vic Dowsett	Reg Butcher	Therese Clear
Chris Bush	Diane Bush	Brenda Davidson
Trevor Hackett	Do Hackett	Frances Lambert
Lynda Jolly	Hilary Todd	Valerie Austin
Roger Clark	Phyllis Clark	Reg Butcher
Graham Hebenton	Ann Hebenton	Anne Player
Tony Bailey	Kevin Wood	Tricia Holyomes
Graham Morland	Graham Jackson	Doug Stephenson
Tim Snow	Vic Dowsett	

Apologies:

Margaret Shaw Campbell Dunn	Eileen Kay Lynda Dunn	Keith Merrifield Roger Kendrick
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The Secretary apologises for missing Doug Stephenson from the attendance list last time.

1. The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present to the meeting

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting 11th June 2025

The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Thanks go to Chris Bush for his notes from the speaker's talk.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Speaker, Chris Bush

Chris's talk was entitled "Listed Elsenham" and he started with an explanation of what listed means.

Simply put a Listed Building is a building of great historical or artistic value that has official protection to prevent it being changed or destroyed and is included on a statutory list. Buildings are assigned a Grade according to its level of historic interest.

Grade I buildings are of exceptional historic interest;
Grade II* buildings are of great historic interest;
Grade II buildings are of special historic interest.

But why is listing necessary? The damage caused by World War II saw many fine old buildings lost forever and prompted efforts to list buildings deemed to be of particular architectural merit and to gauge if worthy of rebuilding should it be damaged..

Three hundred representatives of the relevant bodies sat down to draw up these lists and it was from that first wartime work that that the current listings system was developed.

Nowadays there are four statutory lists drawn up by one organisation from each country of the UK viz:

Historic England
Historic Environment Scotland
Cadw in Wales
Department for Communities in Northern Ireland

It is not just buildings however that can be listed. Many other structures can be listed such as:

Bridges
Monuments
Sculptures & War Memorials
Milestones
Mileposts
Ancient Military and uninhabited structures (eg Stonehenge) may be classified as Ancient Monuments

Believe it or not the Zebra Crossing made famous by the Beatles in Abbey Road is also listed

Within Elsenham, Historic England lists 57 Listed Records, one is Grade I and 56 others Grade II

Strictly speaking three of these are not in the Parish of Elsenham; "Ravens " is off of Grove Hill ; Down Farm House and Palegate Farmhouse are listed as "Elsenham Road Stansted"

The Grade I building is our church, St Mary The Virgin off Hall Road. Much of the church dates from the twelfth century. The nave and chancel were built early in the twelfth century on the site of an earlier church, probably Saxon. A record of 1070 exists of the gift of the church as an endowment to the abbey of St Stephen, at Caen in Normandy. The chancel was altered in the fifteenth century and the west tower of 3 stages without buttresses, with an embattled parapet and a stair turret rising to the second stage on the south-east corner was added. The south porch was added about 1500 and has embattled wall plates and tie beam,

Chris then took the audience on a whistlestop tour of the other listed buildings in Elsenham starting at Elsenham Hall and finishing at the Station where the Station Masters house and East side Waiting Room are both listed.

There then followed a lively Q&A session before the talk concluded.

6. Open Forum and Any Other Business

6.1 Visit to Saffron Walden Museum – Last Call

We have been trying to arrange a guided tour of the Saffron Walden Museum and the reserve collection for some time. Whilst there has been some interest we don't have enough to make it economic. So it's last call for these visits; if you haven't already signed up, please get in touch to register your interest.

To remind you costs are as follows:

Guided tour of the Museum is £30 during daytime hours, £96 evening hours.

Guided tour of the Shire Hill Store is £30 during daytime hours, £96 evening hours and £200 for a half day on Saturday

Refreshments are £30 per group

Group size is up to 20 although 25 is doable
Normal museum entry charges are extra currently...

Adult: £2.50; Concession (over 65 or student) .£1.25

6.2 Future Talks

After a somewhat challenging period finding speakers, we now have speakers booked to September 2026 as follows.

November 2025:	Prof. Alison Rowlands;	Essex Witch Trials
March 2026:	Mark Cook;	Policing in Essex and The Met.
June 2026;	Martin Rose;	The Railways through Audley End
September 2026;	Mark Ratcliffe;	Matching Aerodrome

We try to get speakers on subjects that will interest you as members but if you have any thoughts about what you would like to hear or know of good speakers, please let us know.

6.3 Teas and Coffees

Our thanks go this evening to Lynda Jolly and Brenda Davidson who kindly brewed the teas and coffees.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 12th November 2025 when Prof. Alison Rowlands will be speaking about "The Herts and Essex Witch Trials"

ENDS

Minutes Agreed: November 2025
Ray Franklin - Chairman