

Elsenham Village Snapshots

The Elsenham Skull

In 1984 when there was drainage work being done at St Mary's Church, several skulls and other bones were discovered adjacent to the Church's Eastern window. In the Herts and Essex Observer in February 1984 there was a report on the finds with a picture of The Rev Brian Green, Vicar at that time, and the man who dug up the bones.



Elsenham Village History Society/Archaeology

Brian Green notified Gordon Barker who went to the church, to see one of the skulls. The Vicar arranged for that skull to be taken away to get it dated and to find out more about it.

It went to Wicken House, Wicken Bonhunt where it stayed for some long time until Gordon Barker decided it was time to find out what had happened to it as surely the research must have been completed and Gordon was determined to get it returned to the Village so that it could be re-buried at St Marys again.

Eventually Gordon tracked down the location of the skull and with the help of the Conservation Officer at Uttlesford District Council it was successfully recovered and Gordon collected it. It was in a box packed in tissue paper and from the photograph he had, it was confirmed as being the Elsenham Skull. Gordon brought it back to the village and it has been returned to St Mary's where it has been re-interred in the Churchyard.

The Skull was male and thought to be of Roman origin dating from circa 300 AD. How it came to be at St Mary's remains a mystery.