



LEST WE FORGET

SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

Issue No. 226

DECEMBER - JANUARY

**ST MARGARET S.E
FLIXTON**

**CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL
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SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

December - January 2022

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magazine going and FREE to over 400 households.**

NEXT COPY DEADLINE JANUARY 7TH

*The views and comments printed herein are not necessarily the views of
the Editor or this publication*

EDITORIAL

It makes you wonder, what with politicians shooting themselves in the foot whilst still backtracking on their last words. Big Climate debate in Scotland, thousands of people telling us not to use fuel, whilst many flew there and back in aeroplanes burning vast amounts of fuel. Meanwhile Covid still lurks.
MERRY CHRISTMAS

St MARGARET S.E CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Come along and enjoy the lit-up trees in the twilight with
refreshments, mince pies, cakes, tombola and wreaths.
Entrance £1, children FREE



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The Grouped Parish Council of Flixton, St Cross & St Margaret South Elmham met at Batemans Barn by permission of Mr & Mrs Sanderson, on Tuesday 14th September at 7.30pm. Quotes are being sought for refurbishment of the St Cross Village sign, a letter regarding the permissive footpath in Flixton had been sent to Mr Roma, but as yet no reply had arrived. The insurance has been renewed, Grange Road, Flixton, with its flooding and drainage was discussed at great length, and it is hoped to get the relevant parties together on site to rectify the problem once and for all. Remedial tree work is advised in St Margaret by Norse, this was approved. The split ash tree in St Cross has not been removed despite being reported to East Suffolk council and BT on numerous occasions. Next meeting
FLIXTON village hall 9th November 7.30pm

MOLE

It amuses me to walk into the bank with a mask on as, if you had done it 18 months ago the buttons would have been pressed and the Police would have taken you away, now if you haven't got one on you are likely to be ejected anyway. Durrants held a Charity clay shoot in the Beck valley in October, raising money for Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institute, which was this year's chosen charity. Many thanks to Durrants and Cllr Cloke, our Suffolk County Councillor, for subsidising the First Aid course in St Margaret S.E village Hall, a skill that will benefit the community. The Litter pick in October filled a few more black bin bags, thank you to all concerned and to Norse for collecting it. Still in St Margaret S.E Badminton has started again, amid much laughter and cries of 'Rodney' as the shuttlecock hits the ceiling. Welcome to Kerry Wilmot, we hope you are happy here. All Saints local celebrity and Chair of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, Gail Sprake, gave a talk at St Johns Church on Farming, showing and Conserving, this was a very interesting collection of facts and experiences. Two of our local hostelries have reopened, Flixton Buck and St Peters Hall we wish them well. The Remembrance service at St Margaret S.E saw Daniel Johnson make a swift trip outside, apparently he was saving a Ladybird.



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FROM THE TRACTOR CAB

Watching the birds following the plough is always interesting, this year is the first time I've noticed a change. Usually the gulls, starlings and jackdaws follow behind the plough landing feeding and catch the plough again in a rolling action. The pied wagtails just keep walking forward as the plough passes. However, this year the Buzzards have joined in and instead of a continuous line of gulls behind the plough, there are gaps as where there is a Buzzard, no gull or other bird will land within 15 feet either side of one. Bats are the only true flying mammal. They sleep hanging upside down navigate by echolocation. The UK is home to 18 species. Most hibernate in the colder months as their diet is insects and very few fly during winter. They hibernate in tiny crevices, probably starting in November and they can drop their heartbeats to 4 a minute, which is some drop as it's about 1000 a minute whilst flying. Don't forget to feed the birds particularly at this time of year.



ST Margaret S.E DIARY rules allowing

Monday 15, 22 & 29 November

FIRST AID COURSE

By MJ training 7.15 pm

Saturday/Sunday 4/5 December

Christmas Tree Festival,

St Margaret Church 2pm -6.30pm

Sunday 12 December

CHRISTMAS LUNCH 12.00 – 12.30pm,

Bar, raffle and Santa £10, 13 and under.

£5 to book ring MOLLY 01986782465 or

PHILLIP 07974126902

Sunday 19 December

Carol Service, 6pm

Thursday 23 December

6pm Santa on his sleigh through the village with Ronnie Reindeer



Friday 14 January 2022

Fun Quiz, refreshments, raffle.

Hall, Entrance £5, 07974126902

St MARGARET S.E HARVEST LUNCH 2021

The Harvest lunch was held in a splendid marquee, courtesy of the Murton family who with a little help also erected and took it down, despite the wind doing its best to upset the operation.

J. FELTON

CHIMNEY SWEEP



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LEE GARDENING SERVICES

St Margaret continued....

Once erected a ring of trailers was put round it to take the pressure of the wind. The marquee was decorated with hedgerow branches and fruits. On the day the sun was out, the food was ready which was served by a one-way route in the village hall and out a different door back to the marquee. After the meal a very well supported raffle, raised more money for this Church/Village Hall event. Thank you to all involved.

ST PETER

Autumn so far has been reasonably kind, but you get the feeling that a taste of winter is just around the corner. Some of the winter visitors have started to arrive, such as fieldfares. Some of the permanent residents are also getting braver now the nights are longer. The heron and I do a mutual double take when I open the bedroom curtains most mornings of late and the fox keeps setting off the driveway camera. I thought aliens had landed the other day, but it was just David, our hedgehog, whispering.

Welcome to Trio's Catering and Events to St Peters Hall. It is good to see some life in the building again and somewhere within walking distance for us to go. The Hall reopened at the beginning of October with many people taking up the invitation to have a look around just prior to the launch. All the vibes are very good and we wish the team well. Hopefully they are still as welcoming after we have had our village Christmas meal. The Hall was also the venue for a celebration of Quentin's life. Thank you, Caroline, for inviting us to share in the occasion and the memories of Quentin. With the company, the bagpipes and the wine Quentin would have been in his element. He will be missed.

Christmas is coming and there will be a Carol service at the church. The date is still a closely guarded secret, unless it is mentioned elsewhere in the magazine, so watch this space. A lot of work has taken place tidying up the churchyard and it is looking very smart.

The 49 club for October was won by Mrs Correspondent and in November by the church. It is renewal time so if you would like to renew or if you would like to take part, please speak to Pamela.

The way it is looking at the moment I think we will be able to meet other humans over the festive period, which is a bit different from a year ago. So, with fingers crossed, it just leaves me to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



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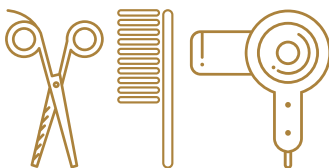
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HOMERSFIELD

VILLAGE LITTER PICK

Ten willing volunteers met on the Green on 16th October and, using the grabbers, hoops and bags kindly supplied by East Suffolk Norse, cleared our roadsides and green spaces of litter. Fly tipping of containers of cooking oil in the slip road were reported and removed by East Suffolk Council. Thank you to everyone who helped. The next village litter pick morning is on Saturday 5th March 2022. Please write it in your diary and come along.

COUNCILLOR NEEDED

We are still one councillor short of our allocation of five parish councillors. We are a friendly, approachable group who would be glad to hear from someone who cares about the community and the future of our village. If you have skills to offer and can spare a little time then please get in touch with Sally Chapman, Clerk to the Parish Council – email homersfieldparishcouncil@gmail.com. Training for councillors is available.

HOMERSFIELD WOOD

Since we last wrote there have been two wood working parties in September and October. The October wood working party was well attended and it was brilliant working alongside others to maintain and enhance our woodland habitat. Mark Timms, our Tree Warden, has created a plan for us, for which we are most grateful. He has applied for some free trees (Oak, Hornbeam, Cherry and Crab Apple) through the Queen's Green Canopy project and some free hazel plants to boost the shrub layer of the wood. Mark has surveyed the existing trees, noting which ones need to be pruned or cut down due to disease.

If you would like to get involved with helping in Homersfield Wood, please keep an eye on the notice board to see when working parties are happening. There will have been one on Saturday November 20th (10am-12pm), there may need to be one in December if the trees arrive at that time (date will be posted on the noticeboard) and then there will be one on Saturday January 22nd 2022 (10am-12pm).

Monthly Flower Arranging Workshops

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VILLAGE BENCHES

You will have noticed that the wooden bench which wound around one of the trees on the Green has magically moved to another tree in the wood beside the new churchyard. This 'magic' happened through the hard work of Tim and his team and we thank him. The bench is being replaced with a metal one, which has kindly been donated in memory of June.

REMEMBRANCE WREATH

By time you read this a new wreath will have been placed on the Green. A place, perhaps, to pause and remember.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.

May we take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Our 2022 meeting dates/agendas etc. can be found on the village notice board and on the website <http://homersfield.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/>. The next Parish Council meeting is on Tuesday January 4th, 6pm in The Black Swan.

“The village sign on the turn off from the Flixton Road junction has been smashed into several parts and damaged. The village name is now detached from the metal posts and the two metal posts are knocked out of the ground despite huge lumps of concrete weighing them down and ensuring they would stay upright in gales etc. But not against a car at high velocity which has now left behind its blue front bumper and black radiator grill and other black pieces of plastic as well as deep groves in the grass verge which end with the major bits of car. This all happened on Monday 8th November and it may have been spotted by someone but possibly not.

The other sad thing is litter, sometimes from recycling or rubbish bin days when some people use thin plastic sacks which can be torn open by cats, dogs and birds for the possible food remnants inside. It is such a lot of work by a few people keeping the picnic site and areas of Homersfield clean and litter-free. Please let's all consider how to be more environmentally minded and act accordingly.”

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Church Services

Rev Leon Collyer 01986 781345

28/11/21	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Peter
Advent 1	Evening Prayer	3.00pm	St Cross
05/12/21	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Michaels
Advent 2	Evening Prayer	3.00pm	Ilk St Margaret
12/12/21	Holy Communion	10.00am	St John
Advent 3	Evening Prayer Carols?	3.00pm	Flixton
19/12/21	Holy Communion	10.00am	St James
Advent 4	Carols	6.00pm	St Margaret
26/12/21	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Lawrence
02/01/22	Holy Communion	10.00am	Rumburgh
Christmas	Evening Prayer	3.00pm	Homersfield
09/01/22	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Cross
	Evening Prayer	3.00pm	St Michael
16/01/22	Holy Communion	10.00am	Flixton
	Evening Prayer	3.00pm	St John
23/01/22	Holy Communion	10.00am	Ilk St Margaret
	Outdoor Service	3.00pm	St Lawrence
30/01/22	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Margaret
	Evening Prayer	3.00pm	St Lawrence
06/02/22	Holy Communion	10.00am	Homersfield
	Evening Prayer	3.00pm	Rumburgh



Carol Services

These services are in addition to the regular service

28/11/21	Joint Saints and Bungay Advent Carols At All Saints Mettingham	6pm	
2/12/21	Holy Communion	9am	Ilk St Margaret
05/12/21	Christmas Tree Display	2.30-6.30	St Margaret
	Christmas tree Decorating	3.00pm	St Margaret
9/12/21	Holy Communion	9.00am	Ilk St Margaret
12/12/21	Carol Service	4.00pm	St John
14/12/21	Carol Service With school and choir	6.00pm	Rumburgh
16/12/21	Holy Communion	9.00am	Ilk St Margaret
	Carol Service	6.00pm	Ilk St Lawrence
17/12/21	Carol Servcie	6.00pm	St Michael
18/12/21	Carols and a Pint	4.00pm	Rumburgh Buck
19/12/21	Carol Service	6.00pm	St Margeret
20/12/21	Carol Service (with Choir)	6.00pm	Homersfield
22/12/21	Carol Service	6.00pm	St James
23/12/21	Carol Service (with Choir)	6.00pm	St Peter
24/12/21	Crib Service	3.00pm	Ilk St Margaret
	Crib Service	5.00pm	Flixton
	Midnight Mass	11.00pm	St Cross
25/12/21	Family Communion	10.00am	Ilk St John
02/01/22	Evening Prayer	3.00pm	Homersfield

WINTERS ON ITS WAY

Time is rapidly marching on,
The beautiful leaves will soon be gone,
The colours of autumn will change to brown,
As the trees and hedgerows begin to shut down.

Father Christmas will soon be back,
The children wondering what's in his sack,
I hope it's a big bag he's got on his sleigh,
I've asked for a load of firewood to come my way.

Badminton has started once again,
We play on regardless, work through the pain,
Strange sounds accompany our quest for points,
Grunts, groans and the creaking of very old joints,
We're mostly cranky and 'over the hill',
But the laughter makes up for the lack of skill,

I've had some remarks made a few times,
That the words don't always rhymn in my rhymes,
Please don't get upset, don't get uptight,
With my broad Suffolk accent, it all sounds orlroight!

Sally.(HOMERSFIELDS PAM AYES)



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ST. CROSS NEWS

The autumn season has been rather beautiful. We seem to have had plenty of bright sunny days which compliments the colours of the ploughed fields and fallen leaves. "Strictly" is on our screens and so Christmas must be coming! Amazing to think that the next edition of our Community News will be next year!

VILLAGE SIGN

Restoration work on the village sign will be carried out. The sign will need to be removed for the work to be done, so be aware that it may "disappear" for a period. Never fear, it will return!

NOTICE BOARD

The Parish Council has been trying to site a new notice board at the Fox Hill end of the village. Unfortunately, it has been difficult to find a suitable site. If anyone has any suggestions as to where the board might be placed, please talk to one of the Parish Councillors. The notice board by the Telephone Box by Minster Cottages remains functional.

The Parish Council is looking to improve the safety of the green at Minster Cottages which our newly increased population of children are enjoying playing on. Councillors in negotiation with local residents intend to improve the fencing on the corner near the bus shelter. The fencing will be renewed and the height increased so that access to the road is discouraged.

ST GEORGES CHURCH

This year's Carol service is combined with Homersfield at Homersfield on Monday 20 December at 6pm due to decreasing numbers in the last few years.

ST JAMES

CHURCH NEWS

The autumn has brought a great annual clear up in the churchyard. The PCC would like to thank all those who helped clear up and especially Robin Thurston and his nephew Rob for all the hard work they put into this marathon task.

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ST JAMES CONTINUED...

There will be a Holy Communion in the church on 19th December at 10.00am. Look out for fliers and notices about the Carol Service nearer the time.

HALL AND VILLAGE NEWS

By now you will have seen flyers and posters on the village boards with the details for the annual Photographic Competition. So, just a reminder that all photos should be in to Caroline Rodbourne at Grange Barn by Thursday 2nd December.

Viewing and voting in the hall from 11am – 1pm on Saturday 4th December at a Coffee Morning.

As you know, there will be no Christmas Lunch at the hall this year, so this will be the last event of 2021. Let's hope we may be able to offer our usual events again in 2022.

Work has begun on the Canser, the footpath from The Street near St James Lane to The Church, to clear out leaves and debris accumulated over the years and improve the surface. Our thanks to Peter Hadingham, Bernard Crockford, Andrew Hadingham and family and Richard Hadingham for lending their equipment, time, effort and skills for this work. Footnote canser: a derivation of the East Anglian dialect word caunsey, going back to at least 1440, for a causeway or raised footpath often paved (Keith Briggs et al)

ORCHARD REPORT

Maintenance of the orchard has continued during the pandemic and included repairs to the entrance gates as well as the on-going grass cutting and tree pruning. All the trees now have new and, hopefully, deer-proof tree guards. The weather as usual has played its part in the production of fruit with some trees producing bumper crops and others hardly any. Sadly, a further 4 trees have been lost either through adverse weather conditions or damage. It is hoped that replacements will be planted by the spring.

The pandemic also resulted in the loss of Harleston Cider. This left us with the dilemma of what to do with all the fruit – leaving it to rot on or under the trees was not an option!



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Orchard report continued...

Eventually, in both 2020 and 2021, apart from fruit picked by the village, most of it was donated to the Food Larder in Halesworth, a project run jointly by the Halesworth Volunteer Centre and St Mary's Church to provide the elderly and families in need with food. The project operates from the Church Hall and people can either donate, take or take and donate, no questions asked and anyone can participate. The fruit from our orchard was used in several ways, as fresh fruit, made into chutney or apple pies and crumbles by volunteers and distributed to the house-bound and isolated, or in the Food Larder.

However, we hope that in the future it will be possible to find another juicer or cider maker so the orchard will be able to obtain a small income again.

Grateful thanks are extended to Richard and Ed Hadingham for all their support, to our pruning and picking volunteers from the village to those from outside St James who are strong orchard supporters, particularly Sarah Day from Homersfield and Jeremy Henry from Rumburgh, and those who continue to enjoy the orchard as a place of quiet relaxation.

HARLESTON CHORAL SOCIETY will be giving their annual concert on SATURDAY, 18th December at 7.30 pm in St John's Church, Harleston.

Carols for Choir and audience as well as Choral Classics, including excerpts from Handel's Messiah with soloist and chamber ensemble.

Tickets, £10 from Caroline Rodbourne (782545), on the door, or from Harleston Info Plus. Children free accompanied.

FLIXTON

THE BUCK

Still work to do but our village has its pub back! The Buck has re-opened with a brand new style and new faces, too. Wednesday, October 27th gave us a hint of what is to come as "Front of House" Mark welcomed some new faces and also some "old" (just referring to me, of course).

D Johnson Decorating

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Contact Details inside front cover

As he builds his team, he has the support of a truly excellent Chef, Jason who's culinary skills should impress even the most discerning customers. The all new decor will be continued through to the Adair Room, so watch this space... Oh yes, the Christmas menu is out so be quick.

CHRIS' CHARITY GARDEN PARTY

She did it!! Well done Chris for, not only putting on a lovely afternoon garden party, but also bringing many village residents together. Her target this year was £1,000 and she achieved £1,015 for the very worthy Macmillan Charity. Chris has asked us to publish her gratitude to everyone who chipped in to help her efforts, from baking to donating raffle prizes and auction items.

Luke To The Rescue!

Heavy, late summer rain caused some flash flooding in Church Road. Surprise, rescue, clearing blockages and preventing the situation getting out of hand. The two lads were also helped by Stuart... who apparently lives near the shiny, new post box. It's not the first time Luke has shown a good measure of community spirit, so "well done, Luke"!

KEN WARNE

Ken has been steadily plugging away at a couple of troublesome issues over the past months. Church Road at last has had its post box returned as a result of continued pressure from Ken... just in time to get those Christmas cards posted.

Also, it's now possible to walk from Church Road all the way to the Buck without feeling that you've wandered into Flixton Gravel Pits. The foot-path along The Street is at last wide enough for pedestrians to feel a tad safer from passing lorries... thanks, once again, to Ken.

Don't forget, if you have any news for the village let me know on 896828 .
Pete Madder-Smith

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FLIXTON 100 club

September

1	Jack Softley	15
2	Alfie Doughty	82
3	Susan Yaxley	17

October

1	Keith Parker	33
2	Linda Doughty	52
3	Sue Maddersmith	68

Harleston and District u3a would like to wish readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope to have a full programme of monthly meetings in 2022 and if you would like information about these, or our group activities, please take a look at our website: u3asites.org.uk/harleston or phone Kim Poulton on 01986 788149.

METFIELD STORES CO-OPERATIVECIC

run by the community for the community

Want an opportunity to put something back into your community?

Metfield Stores is recruiting volunteers now... Metfield Stores cic has been serving the village and beyond for over 15 years. We stayed open throughout both lockdowns – thanks to our manager Sue, her family and a much-reduced team of volunteers. We were even able to help vulnerable customers with home deliveries. It's when the chips are down that you realise the true value of such an amenity! Over the past year, some of our volunteers have decided to hang up their aprons or have moved away from the village. We are keen to recruit new ones to fill those gaps and are seeking people who have two hours a week to give (or more if they would like to). Where you live is not a problem, several of our volunteers live outside Metfield. We prefer that you can offer your time on a regular basis, but we also like to have some 'standby' volunteers, who can be flexible and are able to cover slots at short notice. Over the years, individuals aged between 14 and 90 have become valued members of our volunteer workforce. So, no matter what your age or experience, we'd love to hear from you. Training will be given. There are many tasks involved in keeping the shop functioning well. You can serve customers behind the counter or, if you prefer, you can help in other ways such as pricing, refilling shelves or keeping the shop spick and span. And a friendly face behind the counter will always be appreciated! Interested? Why not pop in and ask for more details, phone Sue on 01379 586204 or mail your contact details to metfieldstores@gmail.com. Join our friendly team of volunteers at the heart of the community

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