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SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

ISSUE NO. 246

FEBRUARY - MACH 2025

ST JAMES

ST MARGARET S.E

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CRAFTERNOON

10th February

BINGO

14th February

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SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

February - March '25

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NEXT COPY DEADLINE MARCH 7TH

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

EDITORIAL

2025 is here, Happy New year to everyone, may it be a peaceful and healthy one. In these strange times don't forget to check upon your friends and neighbours, just a text, a ring or better still pay them a visit. Sadly in this supposed age of communication, people find it hard to talk person to person. Hundreds of people wander around with their phone not six inches in front of them, somehow they don't walk into each other but they walk into the road without being aware there is a vehicle coming. Take care and go steady.

GPC www.flixton.one.net

The Grouped Parish Council of Flixton, St Cross & St Margaret South Elmham met at Flixton Village Hall on 12th Nov at 7.30pm. The annual precept was discussed and left the same as last year.

GPC, continued....

It was noted that the Environment Agency had started to clear the Flixton dyke. The website and Insurance were paid. A meeting with the police to discuss illegal dog activities was being planned. The Community Infrastructure Levy had been used to paint the ex-BT boxes. *Next Meeting 13th Jan at St Margaret South Elmham Village Hall 7.30pm.*

MOLE

Seasonal greetings, the Christmas season is over the decorations are down and put away. At St Margaret S.E bingo was held for the first time in at least 25 years, there were some first timers and also some veterans. A good time was enjoyed by all, £25 being won on the last game, comments about the size of the balls caused some amusement. The Christmas lunch was a slightly anxious time as the village had a power cut, but thankfully it came on just in time for the turkeys to be cooked as well as the veg. Seventy friends and residents sat down to pull the crackers and enjoy this festive meal. Thank you to Philip Sands for donating the turkeys.

Also at the lunch the winner of the Sam and Jean Earl Cup for 'community person of the village' was announced: Sue Riseborough (see image)

There was a two-day Christmas Festive Extravaganza in the Church with carol themed exhibits, a quiz, tombola, raffle and refreshments and of course the



paths were lit up with Christmas lights. Carol service with readings, hand bells and a drop of festive cheer. On the Sunday evening before the big day Santa with Ronnie reindeer pulling him made his trip through the district handing out treats to those who came to see him. These ranged from nine months old to ninety two years of age. Thanks to head reindeer handler Richard Cook for controlling feisty Ronnie. Round at Church Farm St Nicolas there was a crib service with a difference as not only was it in a barn, but in the front below the star (see cover) were sheep and either side of the congregation were cows and calves. The service involved congregation participation, mainly children, and this was followed by delicious hot chocolate and spiced apple juice, many thanks to Gail and Micheal Sprake for supplying and decorating the venue and to Rev Leon Collyer for the service.





Elisabeth



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Mole continued...

According to sources a member of our community was rudely awoken in his bed by a presence, whipping of the bed clothes with extreme force, he felt something touch his face, but there was no one there, even the dog lying beside the bed, didn't stir.

FROM THE TRACTOR CAB

The topsy turvey weather gets me in a muddle let alone nature, no wonder we always have a topic of conversation. Birds looking for nest sites in December, buds appearing, then a sharp frost stops everything. The fox lives on every continent except Antarctica, the most common and widespread is the red fox, the female is called a vixen, the male is known as a dog and the young as cubs and a group is a skulk. Known for their craftiness, more than one henhouse has had the door shut to protect the chickens only to find in the morning, when the door is opened, a plump fox comes out. They don't just kill to eat, they go into a frenzy killing a whole flock of poultry and take one to eat. It is not unknown for them to include lamb or piglet to their diet. Although originally a rural resident, they are very good in adapting and many can be found in towns and cities, living on dustbins and takeaways. Several milkmen have seen three or four coming down Leiston High Street at two in the morning, a town with a high population of fast food outlets, this is mirrored in other places too. The snowdrops are coming and in sheltered spots the daffodil has its green leaves above ground.

St MARGARET DIARY

Fri 24th Jan	Bowls, 7.30, Village Hall
Fri 14th Feb	Bingo, 7.30, Village Hall, entry £7 Bring Your Own drinks and snacks
Fri 28th Feb	Fun Quiz, 7.30pm, Village Hall, entry £8 refreshments, bring your own drink
Fri 14th March	Bingo, 7.30pm, Village Hall Entry £7 Bring your own snacks & drinks
Fri 21st March	Fun Quiz, 7.30pm, Village Hall, entry £8 refreshments, bring your own drink
Fri 18th April	Easter trail
Fri 20th June	Countryside Evening, 6-8pm, Beck Valley
Sat 21st June	Classic Vehicle Event, 10-4pm, Beck Valley



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ST MARGARET SOUTH ELMHAM HAND BELL RINGERS

It's been a busy time for this band of musicians', actually, very few of us can read music. It's the flair and dedication of Gail Sprake who writes and magics a tune from our motley collection of handbells. The ringing team is a bit like a Premiership football team in that the ringers are rotated having different ringers at each venue. We have 'entertained' congregations at St Margaret S.E, St Cross and Homersfield carol services with the Saints Choir. Not all musical entertainment there was a bell that parted from its strap and flew down the aisle We have even had a member of the congregation who came all the way from Holland. Easter will see the bells in action again.

HOMERSFIELD

We've had some very windy weather lately and several trees and branches have come down in Church Wood, so take care when walking. The next 'Wood Working Party' is scheduled for 9th February, weather permitting and the following one will be 9th March. Snowdrops and daffodils are already coming through, announcing spring is on its way. I've seen a blue tit checking out the nest boxes in the garden already!

We had a lovely Carol Service, which was very well attended and we welcomed part of The Saints Choir and the infamous St. Margaret's Bell Ringers! The Church looked beautiful, thanks to all the decorating team. Happy New Year everyone, stay safe, snow is on the way.

FLIXTON

Happy New Year!

We've all enjoyed the excitement of the run up to Christmas, then the fun of family gatherings and tasty festive feasts and now we've got the expectations of 2025. January's credit card bills, the shock to find that something has gone badly wrong with the bathroom scales and the dressing mirror seems to have distorted about half way up. Don't worry, before you know it Spring will be here to help sort us all out.

In the meantime, this is always a key period to keep in contact with friends and neighbours as the weather often likes to catch us out.

VILLAGE MEETING UPDATE

From the meeting held on 26th, September Discussion included the need for a structured "calendar" and means of contacting people willing to help.



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Flixton continued...

As a brief update, the next litter pick will be on 22nd March, so please keep the date in your diary and meet up in Church Road by the bus shelter at 10 am with the small band of volunteers who help to keep our village clean. Flood risk issues were also discussed and we have seen further improvement being made by the Environment Agency along the beck in The Street during late November. Unfortunately, the road drains blocked by too much straw is still a problem with trailers dropping more straw along The Street in late December and early January despite the issue being passed to the Parish Council for discussion with local farmers and farm contractors.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Don't forget, the speed watch team could do with some extra help and it's the village witch benefits. So contact Terry Hunt on 01986 892177 if you're interested and willing to lend a hand.

COFFEE & CAKE IN AID OF CHURCH FUNDS

Saturday 23rd November 2024 saw a busy Flixton Village Hall with residents getting together for a chinwag and homemade cakes, scones and cookies. It's always good to get "news" and to welcome new residents to our community.

REMEMBERING FRIENDS

Paula and Roger Allsopp were well known residents who moved here from London, Roger being a London Fire Brigade Fireman who despite growing up in London loved the country life and fishing. Although he remained a staunch Fulham supporter and London Pride consumer. Paula worked in the town and at Towbar in The Saints. They eventually went to live in France, Roger passing away suddenly in '23. Paula passed away just before Christmas having returned to the UK after Roger died. We received one of the last Christmas cards Paula wrote.

Jane and Gordon lived in St Mary's Close for around 9 years and enjoyed their lives here, but Gordon needed to move close to family in Kent when his health began failing. They loved exotic birds and kept an aviary. After Gordon passed away, Jane was keen to move back to her "beloved Suffolk", despite her own health issues. She returned, but to a bungalow in Kessingland. She'd only lived there for 3 weeks when Chris Mac got a call asking her to check on Jane.

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Flixton continued....

James Cracknell drove Chris to Kessingland where they found Jane had sadly passed away. On a positive note, Jane's parrot Arbo has been happily rehomed with one of the medics who attended. Chris, as Chris does, has taken in Sky, Jane's little dog and has found a home for the 34 cockatiels Jane kept in the aviary.

CHRISTMAS CRACKERS!

Well done Chris Mac and Lin Smith. While we were all enjoying time with our families on Christmas Day, they were in Beccles feeding lunch to 65 OAPs. If I'd known, Sue and I would have rocked up. Anything to save all that washing up before the King's Speech.

Any feedback or news contact Pete Madder-Smith 01986 896828

FLIXTON 100 CLUB

November

1st	Jo Custerson	35
2nd	Caden Hennersey	8
3rd	Jamie Hinsley	52

December

1st	Alison Meas
2nd	Helen Aldous
3rd	Jo Beard

ST CROSS

WELCOMES TO:

Kimberley, Craig and Mallie the dog, at The Blacksmith's Workshop.

Ian, Clare, George and Grace plus two dogs at Minster Cottages.

Welcome all of you to the village.

ROY BRITTAİN

Roy passed away peacefully on 23rd December at De Lucy House Care Home, Diss. Roy lived at Sarenchel Cottage and loved St Cross. He and his late wife Joyce reluctantly left the village to benefit from the security and care of De Lucy House. Roy was a keen carriage driver and he and Joyce kept Fell ponies. Roy enjoyed participating in carriage driving trials around the Eastern region. He enjoyed the camaraderie of the events and particularly exchanging a few words with the late Prince Phillip.

Roy was always busy around his property and got into one or two scrapes. Some of us will remember the scare of galvanised nail poisoning resulting in a blue light dash to hospital followed by a short in-patient stay.

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Church Services

Rev Leon Collyer 01986 781345

26/01/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	Flixton
	Evening Prayer	4.00pm	Rumburgh
02/02/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	St James
	Evening Prayer	4.00pm	St John
09/02/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	Ilk St Margaret
	Evening Prayer	4.00pm	St Margaret SE
16/02/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	Homersfield
	Evening Prayer	4.00pm	St Peter
23/02/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	Rumburgh
	Evening Prayer	4.00pm	Flixton
02/03/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Michael
	Evening Prayer	4.00pm	St John
09/03/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Margaret SE
	Evening Prayer	4.00pm	Ilk St Margaret
16/03/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Peter
	Evening Prayer	4.00pm	Homersfield
23/03/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	Flixton
	Evening Prayer	4.00pm	Rumburg
30/03/25	Mothering Sunday		
	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Lawrence
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	St Cross

06/04/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	St John
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	St James
13/04/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	Ilk St Margaret
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	St Margaret SE
20/04/25	Easter Sunday		
	Holy Communion	10.00am	Homersfield
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	St Peter

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St Cross continued...

I don't think he ever held a nail in his lips again as he repaired a shed! He had a truly terrible accident when he fell from a ladder at chimney pot level. He fell feet first and damaged his ankles badly. Roy was told he would not walk again, but in true 'Brittain' style, he proved the medics wrong, and although his mobility was reduced and he continued to experience pain, he did indeed walk again.

Roy was a good neighbour and friend to many and will be missed.

St PETER

It's been a dull and dreary winter so far with very little sunshine but plenty of wind and rain. Here's hoping we see some more sun in the weeks ahead as we look forward to Spring.

The village Christmas meal was held at St Peter's Hall and was a fun night out. Thanks to Pamela for organising another successful evening. The carol service saw 34 people arrive for carols and readings. The choir and musicians really added to the atmosphere. Thanks to all who made the church ready, provided the refreshments and did the readings. It was St Peter's turn to hold midnight mass this year with 21 people attending.

The 49 club was won in December by the church as the number has not been issued. January was won by Tim Bonnett. Numbers are still available from Pamela if you would like to take part.

It's time for my annual reminder that I have been writing this account of village life since January 2010. Despite my best efforts I don't have a golden handcuffs deal and so I am free to hand over to someone new if there are any takers.

At the time of writing, I'm looking out at wind and driving rain. At least now we can look forward to the spring and summer and the plant and bric a brac stall together with the boules tournament. More details of these will be in the next edition.

A Happy New Year to you all.

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ST JAMES CHURCH NEWS

Despite the weather and not being able to carol through the village, the carol service was a great success and very well attended. We warmly welcomed the Waveney Valley Brass Ensemble to lead the carols and then most stayed for a chat while they enjoyed the refreshments. Many thanks to all those who cleaned and decorated the church which looked wonderful. As most are aware, it is a constant battle to keep churches open and it is such an important part of the village it would be very sad if it were to close.

Many will have noticed that a new entrance has been made to the land at the back of the church. This has been made necessary due to the limited parking at the front, and many who attend the services are unable to walk from the hall car park. Once the hedging gets established it won't look so raw. If access is needed either Jane or Bernard has the lock number on the gate.

The PCC wishes all a peaceful New Year

HALL AND VILLAGE NEWS

Christmas lunch on the 8th December was a joyous occasion with over seventy attending once again. Wonderful food and good company, not to mention covetable raffle prizes, made for a lovely start to the Christmas season.

The committee would like to thank all those who helped decorate the hall, prepare as well as serve food and of course, clear up afterwards. Too many helpers to mention!

The Wreath Making workshop, a very popular first for St James, run by Jenni Baker, was attended by 14 people, from out-lying areas as well as St James. It was a fun afternoon, with homemade cakes and tea, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed and all went away with a beautiful wreath to adorn their doors for the Christmas period.

The next Crafternoon will be on Monday 10th February at 2.00pm where we will be welcoming Sally from Sally B Designs Artisan, who will be showing us how to do Needle Felting. Contact Ruth Jewson on 01986 783959. Everything needed for this fun craft is included and the cost is £10.00 per person.

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St James continued....

The next event in the village will be an OPEN GARDEN at the Laburnums. Sunday 23rd February, open from 11 - 4pm for snowdrops and hellebores with hot refreshments and shelter from the weather should it be inclement. Contact Jane on 01986 782413

On March 22nd **Harleston Choral Society** will once again hold a quiz with supper in our village hall. All are welcome, regardless of whether you belong to the choir, so if you would like to test your brains after all that Christmas TV, book in with Caroline on 019867 82545.

In May, the hall will host a BARN DANCE, date will be in the next Community News.

Last, but not least, a reminder of the sports sessions and equipment we have in our hall. There are badminton, table tennis and Pilates sessions weekly and we have equipment for Pickleball, a sport which is becoming increasingly popular.

All details contact Caroline on 01986 782545.

HARLESTON CHORAL SOCIETY

We're now well into our 25th anniversary year, singing Carl Orff Carmina Burana, which will be the highlight of the year at our Summer Concert on 28th June, with the choir of Harleston Sancroft Academy. It's never too late to join us, we're a friendly community choir, we welcome everybody (especially potential Tenors), whether or not they've sung in a choir before, there are no auditions. We meet for practices on Monday evenings from 7.30 pm – 9.30pm in The London Road Church, Harleston IP20 9BH. Free parking is available in The Original Factory Shop (TOFS) car park almost opposite. We have lots of events to celebrate twenty-five years of wonderful music and we hope that you'll enjoy them with us.



See the Home Page and the About Us and Location and Contact sections of our website www.harlestonchoral.org.uk for more information about HCS (and our 25th anniversary), or from Caroline Rodbourne, caroline@rodbourne.org.uk 01986 782545 or Jo Curry, jo.curry@sky.com 07768 544005



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HARLESTON & DISTRICT u3a

Harleston & District u3a would like to invite you to the second of our 2025 monthly talks – Fleeing the Red Terror - on 19th January at 2.00pm, in St John's Church, Harleston. Ron French, a Beccles u3a member, will be talking about the flight of a wealthy young family from the depredation of Lenin's campaign of political repression and executions in Soviet Russia, carried out by the Bolsheviks.

Visitors welcome, admission £3.00 including refreshments. Further information about this and all Harleston & District u3a's activities is on our website www.harleston.u3asite.uk or contact Kim Poulton on 01986 788149.

SOUTH ELMHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY GROUP MEETINGS

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 27th Feb | Sarah Doig on "A Sign of the Times; Local History told through East Anglian Road Signs" |
| 27th March | Dr J Belsey on "The Boy who burned the Barn - Crime and Punishment in 19thC Suffolk" |
| 24th April | Stuart Burgess on "The Elizabethan House of Gt Yarmouth "If walls could talk" |

Meetings are held at St Margaret South Elmham Village Hall on the last Thursday of each month at 7.30pm unless otherwise advised. Everyone is most welcome you do not have to be a member to attend.

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Three Saints South Elmham Parish Council

All Saints & St. Nicholas, St. Michael and St. Peter South Elmham

MEETING DATES 2025

All meetings are held in Rumburgh & St Michael Village Hall,
Rumburgh IP19 0JD

- Wednesday 8th January 2025 at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 12th March 2025 at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 14th May 2025 at 7.30pm

Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Parish Council Meeting

- Wednesday 9th July 2025 at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 10th September 2025 at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 12th November 2025 at 7.30pm

~Members of the Public are Welcome to Attend all Meetings ~

The agenda is displayed on village noticeboards and published on TSPC's website (<https://threesaints-pc.gov.uk>) three days before the meeting.

Planning meetings and additional meetings may be arranged
as needed.

For further details contact the Clerk:

Email: clerk@threesaints-pc.gov.uk or Tel: 07774 734411

HOMERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING DATES 2025

All meetings are held in The Black Swan, Homersfield

- Tuesday 28th January 2025 at 6.00pm
- Tuesday 18th March 2025 at 6.00pm
- Tuesday 6th May 2025 at 6.00pm
- Tuesday 15th July 2025 at 6.00pm
- Tuesday 16th September 2025 at 6.00pm
- Tuesday 18th November 2025 at 6.00pm

~ Parishioners are Welcome to attend all Meetings ~

The agenda is displayed on the village noticeboard and published on HPC's website (<https://homersfield-pc.gov.uk>) three days before the meeting.

Planning meetings and additional meetings may be arranged as needed.

For further details contact the Clerk:

Email: clerk@homersfield-pc.gov.uk or Tel: 07774 73441

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During Christmas and New Year there will be a few open days,
please visit the website for dates & details

Private Viewings can be arranged

Please contact the Museum Manager on 01986 896644

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Another year gone, just like that!
And it's back to the uniform of scarf, coat and hat!

Father Christmas took lodgings in a local farm,
I assume the reindeer stayed in the barn,
They all magically appeared one cold, dark night,
Spreading joy and sweets, to the children's delight.

This year I will try to be more organised.
If I can stick to it everyone will be surprised!
To keep my mind focused and on track,
It usually veers off the rails and doesn't come back!
As they say I'll try to "keep my ducks in a row",
Mine seem to have waddled off to some place i don't know.

I wish you all a very happy New Year,
Try to stay healthy, but thanks to Mr. Starmer, probably not
wealthy!



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