



THE HOLLY AND THE IVY

SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

Issue No. 219

DECEMBER - JANUARY

ST CROSS SIR CAPTAIN TOM MOORE IS FRAMED

HOMERSFIELD MANI STONES FROM HIMALAYAS ??

St MARGARET S.E FISHING ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

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SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

December 2020 - January 2021

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NEXT COPY DEADLINE JANUARY 7TH

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

EDITORIAL

Times, they are a changing, aren't they just, USA elections, Brexit and always there is Corona Virus. Planning anything more than a day ahead is hard, as what you were going to do is no longer legal. Vaccine promised in the Spring, but if we can follow rules then we should stay above the grass, which is preferable to 6ft under it.

Have a safe Merry CHRISTMAS

GPC

The Zoom meeting of the Grouped Parish Council of Flixton, St Cross and St Margaret, South Elmham took place on Sept 22nd, as the earlier meeting was abandoned due to technical issues. A proposal to frame the portrait of Sir Captain Tom Moore in St Cross bus shelter was proposed and passed. The St Cross defibrillator operational status caused concern, resulting in taking it out of service. The annual insurance renewal was also proposed and passed. UK Power was reported to still be carrying out improvements in the St Margaret S.E area. Flooding on Grange road and Flixton dyke, as well as speeding through Flixton street were discussed.

Next Meeting Jan 18th 7.30pm

MOLE

Well, after weeks of dry weather it turned wet, and not many hours of dry in the last few weeks. Covid 19 keeps social life to a minimum. Imagine my surprise on listening to local radio one night whilst cultivating, when the presenter said 'we will hear from Canary fan Chris Sadler on team selection'. I rang Chris 'didn't know you were on the radio?', 'No' he replied 'it's not me' it's my namesake from North Norfolk. For Norwich City to have one Canary fan called Chris Sadler is fortunate, but two is extraordinary.

Now we have had a lot of rain, as Daniel and his neighbour James were seen fly fishing on St Margaret S.E village green. Congratulations to James and Amelia on the birth of Rosy. Over at St Cross welcome to Claire and Martin. Down at Flixton Ivan and Dawn Howard have dug half their drive and relaid it, looks good. Meanwhile at Homersfield Jo Westgate is still trying to find her way to St James for a cup of tea. Up at St James the village has taken over the recreation field from East Suffolk Council. Have a Happy and Safe Christmas

FROM THE TRACTOR CAB

The weather is wet, the Beck is running again. Frogs seem to be enjoying the damp conditions making the most of the mild weather before hibernating in mud or under leaves or anywhere that stays damp. They breathe through their skin as well as their lungs and can change their colour to blend into their surrounding.



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From the tractor cab, continued...

They eat snails, slugs and worms and what else they can get with their long sticky tongues. The starlings are flocking and if you are lucky you may witness a murmuration, which is when thousands of these birds flock together and wheel through the sky, all without hitting each other, normally before roosting. Very few of our continental birds have arrived yet, although if the weather turns cold they will, birds such as the field-fare blackbird and woodcock.

ST MARGARET S.E

Despite the virus it is hoped that Santa will still visit. Procession and carols from the Village Hall to Church, wrap up warm and bring a torch, we can sing carols on the way, on Thursday Dec 17th at 6pm.

HUBY FAIRHEAD

is tracing his family tree and has got back to 1390, when an Andrew Fayerhead was at 40acre farm South Elmham, where they had sheep and weaving. DOES ANYONE HAVE IDEA where this was? Let me know.
P.Kidner 07974126902

FLIXTON

It seems that my September comments regarding grey skies was the “foreword” to monsoon weather. So the term “Green and Pleasant Land” is mainly due to virdigris and moss. Trying to get a bonfire going on a day which would allow the smoke to disperse without annoying neighbours was a monumental task in itself. Let’s hope the few recent blue sky days are a sign that things are settling. Lockdown is with us again sadly, as expected. Was it “Eat Out to Help Out”, back to school, returns to universities or that we relaxed a bit too much and became complacent. Whatever the cause or causes, let’s hope that we can all make a bit more effort and take a bit more care. Until the eagerly awaited vaccine is with us, our long term financial wellbeing hinges on us all “doing our bit”.

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Lord Jesus Christ
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Thank you for dying on the cross for me to set me free from my sins. Please come into my life and fill me with the Holy Spirit and be with me forever.
Thank you Lord Jesus, Amen

If you have made this commitment and would like to make contact with a local Christian or if you don't feel ready to make this decision and would like further help from a local Christian, please write giving your full name and address and age group to:
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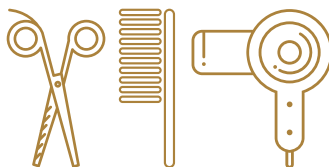
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THE BUCK

Phil was going to take a well earned break for the early part of this lockdown but he's decided to keep up his takeaway meal service while the Buck remains temporarily shut. So, if you're peckish but don't want to cook, look out for his sign and phone him with your order. Sunday roast or Fish and Chips, you can't go wrong.

JAKE LAIN

No, this isn't a new series. I contacted Jake for some more information about the recent national news feature on Manchester students breaking down security fencing around their accommodation. It does appear that the provision of fencing was a very well intended protection measure for the students, due to a couple of recent attacks.

However, communication from the university administrators wasn't timely or clear. I suppose that could be balanced against an over reaction by some students. It appears to be a sign of the times that fuses are a little short.

Anyway, despite the "covid" restrictions and facility limitations at university, Jake says he is doing well and enjoying the experience so far.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR

Let's hope the next few weeks puts us all in a situation where we can enjoy our Christmas and New Year with friends and loved ones. Don't forget, if you have any news for the village let me know on 896828.

Pete Madder-Smith

ST MARY'S CHURCH FLIXTON

Finding ourselves in lockdown once again with limited numbers for funerals, and no weddings, baptisms or worship services, reminded me of how quickly things can be arranged if there is a will. I am thinking about the wedding of Ben and Bethany Hadingham all arranged in one week to take place at St Mary's church on 4th July. Even though there were only 30 guests, all socially distanced with masks and sanitizer provided, it turned out to be a wonderful occasion. Thank you to all who made it so. Our belated best wishes to Ben and Bethany, but it will be something to talk about in later years.



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OPERATING WITHIN 20 MILE RADIUS OF BUNGAY

St Mary's Church Flixton, continued...

Hopefully, even though 2020 has been a tough year for all, we will eventually look back and remember we got through this together as families and communities by perseverance, patience and good will to all. Also a big thank you to those who have responded to our plea for financial assistance to help the church with Insurance and all its running cost. We have had donations left at the church of £46.00 and two families committed to monthly giving. We will still have to draw on our limited savings to pay something toward our quota. So any further donations will be gratefully received. As there is a big uncertainty about Christmas we will not be having the usual Carol and Crib service on Christmas eve because we cannot do hands on activities. It is proposed to have a carol singing procession outside in the village with possible short service in the church. Current covid restrictions and social distancing measures allowing of course.

Details will follow later so please keep your eyes open for notices when we know more. Our thoughts and prayers are with Linda, Peter and family at this time. Blessing on you all. *Lynda*

September 100 club

1st.	Douglas Stewart	88
2nd.	Julie Mann	10
3rd.	Stuart Hunt	38

October 100 Club

1st	Sue Warne	52
2nd	Philip Murray	69
3rd	Stan Caley	5

HOMERSFIELD

“On behalf of our village, I want to thank Michael Pellatt for mowing the village green, which was looking a bit scruffy and needed to be made ready for the benefice Armistice Day service. We are so lucky that he is now offering to keep it mown during 2021. This is great news as it is such a visible central space and many cyclists and walkers stop at the bench to take their flasks out and sandwiches. Our thanks also goes to Ian Bunting, who has mown it when he was able to. Ian has kindly donated his ride on mower for the village's use. There are villagers who actively look after the parish by picking up litter, helping in Church Woods and draining the lane as rain flows down from St Cross, as it needs help and encouragement to find its way into the meadows. Thanks to all raising money for the repairs to St Mary's church as the essential works are expensive and outside funding not available to Homersfield” *Sarah Day*



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THE HOMERSFIELD MANI STONES

Three carved mani stones have been uncovered in the back of a shed in Homersfield. They were originally found in the gravel pit in the village around 50 years ago. The stones are reverse engraved in what is believed to be Sanskrit. Mani stones are found throughout India, Nepal and Tibet and have for centuries been carved by Buddhists and traditionally left alongside paths and built into walls carrying the mantra “Om mani padme hum” as an offering to spirits of the place. The meaning of the mantra is somewhat obscure, literally translating as “Praise to the jewel of the Lotus”, but it is also given as “altruistic intention to practise compassion and love, but with wisdom”.

The puzzle of course is how these stones ended up in Homersfield, some way from the Himalayas. The best theory so far is linked to one of the ‘secrets’ of the gravel pits. During the First World War it is alleged that new recruits practiced digging trenches in preparation for their terrible on-journey to Belgium. It is therefore possible – although unestablished – that Gurkhas were here and carved the stones. Around 100,000 Gurkhas took part in that war.

Not being particularly skilled in Sanskrit, the messages could equally be “what am I doing here in Suffolk”?

Any thoughts on these fascinating items would be welcome.

Lawrie Hammond (Lawrie.hammond1@gmail.com)

VACANCY – HOMERSFIELD PARISH CLERK

Applications are invited to apply for the position of Homersfield Parish Clerk.

Ideally, we are looking for an experienced Parish Clerk to advise us on governance and procedural matters and manage our administration, including finance.

The role comes with a small salary. The start date is 1st January and will include handover time to ensure a smooth transition.

For further information, including an application form, job description and person specification, please contact our locum Parish Clerk, Mrs Lua Leggett, by emailing lua@wortwellpc.org.uk.

The closing date for applications is 15th December 2020.

Angela Stokes , Chair - Homersfield Parish Council

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CHURCH SERVICES

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November 15th 10.00	Holy Communion	ONLINE from St Michael
November 22nd 10.00	Christ the King Holy Communion	ONLINE from St John
November 29th 10:00	The First Sunday of Advent Holy Communion	ONLINE from St James
December 6th 10.00	The Second Sunday of Advent Holy Communion	St Lawrence
December 13th 10.00	Advent 3 Holy Communion	Rumburgh
December 20th 10.00	Advent 4 Holy Communion	St Cross
December 27th 10.00	John the Apostle and Evangeli Holy Communion	Flixton

CHURCH SERVICES

January 3rd	Christmas 2	
10.00	Holy Communion	Ilk St Margaret
15.00	Eucharist	St James
January 10th	Baptism of CHRIST	
10.00	Holy Communion	St Margaret SE
January 17th	Epiphany 2	
10.00	Holy Communion	Homersfield
15.00	Eucharist	Rumburgh
January 24th	Epiphany 3	
10.00	Holy Communion	St Peter
15.00	Eucharist	St Cross
January 31st	Presentation of Christ (Candlemas)	
10.00	Holy Communion	St Michael
15.00	Eucharist	Flixton

**Please see next pages for
Carol Services**



CAROL SERVICES processional allows carols to be sung

Sunday 30th November

10:00 Broadcast from St James Advent Sunday -
ONLINE

Sunday 6th December

10:00 St Lawrence Advent Communion

Sunday 13th December

10:00 Rumburgh Advent Communion

Monday 14th December

18:00 St Cross "Carols"

Tuesday 15th December

18:00 St James Procession Carols and Service
(start at village Hall)

Wednesday 16th December

18:00 St Lawrence "Carols"

Thursday 17th December

18:00 St Margaret SE Procession Carols and Service
(start at village hall)

Friday 18th December

18:00 St Peter "Carols"

Sunday 20th December

10:00 St Cross Advent Communion

18:00 St John "Carols"

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CAROL SERVICES continued...

Monday 21st December

18:00 St Michael "Carols" (procession from road)

Tuesday 22nd December

18:00 Homersfield Procession Carols and Service
(start at Black Swan)

Wednesday 23rd December

18:00 Rumburgh Procession Carols and Service
(start at Buck)

Thursday 24th December

15:00 St Margaret Ilk Procession Carols and Service
(start at village hall)

17.00 Flixton Procession Carols and Service
(start at village hall)

23:00 St Peter Midnight Mass

Friday 25th December

10:00 St James Christmas Day Family Service

Sunday 27th December

10:00 Flixton St John the Evangelist Feast



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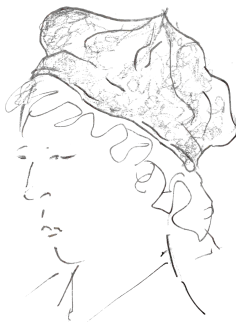
Debbie's berets are beautifully hand knitted, in a colour/colours of your choosing and are being offered at the special price of £5. They retail in local shops for £8 and £12, so you will be getting a bit of a bargain.

Lawrie has done a little illustration to try to show you what they look like.

If you would like to place an order for a beret, please contact Debbie Bird by email on debbiebird@btinternet.com.

Alternatively, if you do not have access to the internet, please phone her on 01986 788215.

Lucy Hammond (Mrs)
Secretary – St Mary's PCC



APPLE STALL AT MILL COTTAGE, HO

Thank you to everyone who donated to St M in exchange for apples. £103.41 has been raised.

Lucy and Lawrie Hammond

ersfield

HOMERSFIELD WOOD

Alice Martin, Arboriculturist, walked the wood with members of the Parish Council. There is a very good mix of trees including a wild service tree and a field maple as well as ash, beech, cherry, hornbeam Lombardy pine amongst others. The Parish Council have done a good job in looking after wood the work carried out has been appropriate and not detrimental, so thanks to all who have helped over the years. The brambles can be cut along the edges to keep the paths and the bridal path clear. At the working party following her visit some of the work was started – such as the removal some of the caging and a large dead branch cut off. Although Alice did not see the daffodils on hearing them described believes they are not native, and consideration should be given to their removal to be replaced by native British ones.



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HOMERSFIELD PLAYING FIELD CHARITY

At a recent open meeting regarding the future of the playing field, it was clear that there were insufficient individuals interested in becoming trustees. Currently there are four, all of whom wish to resign. The feeling of the meeting was for the area to be managed/maintained by the Parish Council on behalf of the village, much as Homersfield Wood is.

We therefore have asked the Parish Council to assume responsibility for the playing field to be kept either as a play area or a community space.

Trustees - Debbie Bird, Lucy Phillips, Helen Constantinou, Tony Eaves

ST CROSS

Here we are at the beginning of the second Lockdown associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Cases have been rising in the Waveney area and we all need to protect ourselves, our loved ones and our community. Please support your neighbours and if you need help contact your Parish Councillors:

Libby French Mullen 07597300112

John Sanderson 07958793298

Ian Noakes 01986 782292

Our bus shelter is now brightened by Cassie Hamilton's evocative picture of Captain Sir Tom Moore which has been framed and is much admired. Thanks are due to the Grouped Parish Council who funded its framing and to Paul Sykes who hung it in place. Grateful thanks are extended to the artist, Cassie Hamilton who allowed her artwork to be framed and displayed. If you haven't seen it yet, make a stop when next you are passing...it is worth a look!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The village defibrillator is out of action.

The ambulance service has been informed, but please be aware that our nearest defibrillators are: St Margaret's Village Hall or St. James Village Hall.

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St PETER

Someone said somewhere, “a lot can happen.” I can only assume that they weren’t in St Peter South Elmham at the time. So while the world takes in the US election and Brexit the news trucks are noticeable by their absence here. This is despite electricity cables arcing down on the meadow and a total loss of power for upwards of 15 minutes. That, I suppose is why we live here.

The 49 club is about to start a new year and so if you have been poised, waiting for a chance to join in, please speak to Pamela and she will allocate you a number. October was won by Jez and November by the church, number hasn’t been issued.

Whilst out on the bike I have noticed quite a large number of starlings. We used to have lots around here, but the numbers seem to have dropped in recent years. I have yet to see the fieldfares though. This is the last community news before Christmas and I would normally be encouraging you along to the carol service. The date for your diary is 6pm on Friday 18th December but we are not sure at the moment what will be possible, so watch this space. The same is true of Midnight Mass on Christmas eve.

By the time I next put my thinking cap on Christmas will be over, we will have a Brexit trade deal, or maybe not. There might be a vaccine. We might even be looking forward to all getting together with a glass of something. This New Year’s eve I am planning to stay up just to make sure that 2020 leaves. So here’s to a peaceful Christmas and a different and better 2021.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

was conducted on the Homersfield Green by Rev Leon Collyer and broadcasted on the net. The names of the fallen were read and the 2 minute silence observed

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Monday Evening Meals & Takeaways
5pm – 8pm & Bar 5pm – 9pm

Tuesday Lunches & Takeaways
12pm – 2.00pm & Bar 12pm – 2.30pm
Evening Meals & Takeaways
5pm – 8pm & Bar 5pm – 9pm

Wednesday Closed all day

Thursday Evening Meals & Takeaways
5pm – 8pm & Bar 5pm – 9pm

Friday Evening Meals & Takeaways
5pm – 10pm

Saturday Snack Menu
12pm – 2.00pm & Bar 12pm – 2.30pm
Evening Meals & Takeaways
5pm – 8pm & Bar 5pm – 10pm

Sunday Roast Lunch Menu
12pm – 2.30pm
Evening Meals
5pm – 8pm & Bar 12pm – 9pm

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Our Agents are appointed representatives of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited (The Society), registered in England. Registered Office: The Society, First, Bartholomew Close, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 1JF. The Society is authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority and is a member of the Financial Ombudsman Service. The Society is a member of the Financial Ombudsman Service.

The Times They Are A Changin

Isn't it strange that you wake up one morning,
And Autumn's arrived without any warning.

All of a sudden the summer has gone,
And you realise that you need more clothes on.
'T' shirts and shorts go back in the drawer
Out come the jumpers and fleeces once more.

These dark nights are really boring,
Me knitting, the dog snoring.
I've overdosed on The Chase and Father Ted,
When I really should have gone to bed.
I try to monitor what the grandchildren see,
Programmes are easy on TV,
But adverts are screened with no discretion
And I'm just waiting for the inevitable question...
"Grandma, what is erectile dysfunction?"

Shopping is getting to be a real task,
When you can't hear or see properly wearing a mask.
There may be trouble ahead for Santa I see,
Are reindeer allowed in tiers 1, 2 and 3?

But we'll keep spirits up, put on a brave face,
Things will get better, just watch this space.
But there's just one thing I'd like to know,
Where did the other 18 covids go?

Sally (Pam Ayes) Remblance

CROSSWAYS of ELLINGHAM



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Browsers Welcome

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