



SNOW IN ST MARGARET S.E

# **SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS**

ISSUE NO. 222

**APRIL - MAY**

**HOMERSFIELD HAS NEW CLERK**

**ST MARGARET S.E LOSES STALWART**

**ST PETER HAS A NEW BARBER**

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# SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

April - May 2021

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magazine going and FREE to over 400 households.**

NEXT COPY DEADLINE MAY 7TH

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

## EDITORIAL


On top of Corvid 19 we had snow and ice. Blocking roads and causing more misery. Fortunately, the farming community were soon clearing roads and towing out vehicles. If you have to abandon your vehicle in the road, leave a note on the dash with your contact number so you can be contacted, when your car can be pulled out, otherwise the Police have to be involved and if it's blocking the highway, they can say 'PUSH IT ON THE SIDE'. Also please have the towing eye (normally with the spare wheel) in the drivers glove compartment, a vehicle can't be towed without one of these. It screws into a holder in the front of the car. If it is kept in the glove compartment it is readily available, otherwise to get to the tool kit under the boot, which could be piled high with cases, is awkward.

## GPC

The GPC Zoom meeting on 18th January 2021, acknowledged District Councillors David Ritchie and Judy Cloke on their efforts in the Christmas floods. Mark Stannard of the Two Sisters treatment plant was commended for his excellent work keeping the drain on Grange Road clear. The St Cross defibrillator was working again thanks to Cllrs French Mullen and Sanderson. The oak tree on the Alfie Day Green has been trimmed, but the contractors had discovered a significant crack in one of the boughs, further investigation by consultants was advised. Other items discussed were misinformation in the South Elmham News, charcoal making in Haggards wood and the fallen St Cross sign. Next meeting Zoom March 9.

## MOLE

The weather is still a bit fickle, what tomorrow brings is anybody's guess, snow, ice, sun, rain or even dry. It was a heck of a shock, ringing David Page of St Margaret S.E to enquire why he had not rung an aunt of mine back about some hedge trimming. For him to say: 'it's not me, it's the other David Page from Walpole area', crickey two Chris Sadlers and now two David Pages and both in the same business. Sadly St Margaret.S.E has lost one of its anchors, Alfie Day. It didn't matter what village function it was, Alfie was there. Putting up the marquee, tables, chairs, manning the bar, cutting the grass, painting the sign, repairing the village hall or down at the church. He was generally looking after someone's lawn or feeding their cat or dog if they were on holiday. He will be sorely missed. Still at St Margaret S.E the oak tree on the Alfie Day Green needed urgent surgery due to a large crack, there was a queue near the tree as the team from Norse performed the surgery. All waiting for the resultant timber. During the snow, which kept most people in, although a few had to be rescued, one chap twice. A transit van had to be pulled out near Oasis, at All Saints, as he was trying to deliver prescriptions to Halesworth but ended up being towed back to Flixton as all the other routes were blocked. The Facebook Saints pages are a brilliant source of information on the road network and services at these times. St James resident Murray Graham seemed to time his coming and going just as the road was cleared. On the Flixton boundary we say goodbye to Sam and the girls and wish them well in the wilds of Hoxne



*Elisabeth*



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## **ST MARGARET SOUTH ELMHAM**

The former Amenity Green has been renamed the Alfie Day Green in honor of the man who spent many hours caring for it.

## **ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING**

Due to Corvid rules this year's meeting will be held by Zoom. Anyone wanting to participate should contact a councillor for the link or if they want they can write, phone or email a councillor.

**Monday 17th May at 7.30pm**

## **St Margaret S.E COUNCILLORS**

Phillip Kidner 01986782289 / 07974126902

Rodney Mulhearn 01986782409

Daniel Johnson 01986782207

## **ST Margaret S.E DIARY rules allowing**

Monday 17th May APM ZOOM 7.30pm

Friday 25th June Countryside evening Beck Valley, 6pm -8 pm

Saturday 26th June Music in the Meadow Beck Valley

Saturday 11th July Plant and Produce Show Village Hall

Saturday 17th July BBQ on the Alfie Day Green

## **ALFIE DAY**

St Margaret.S.E has lost a real friend. Alfie was a stalwart of the village be it barman at the cricket, cutting the village green or helping in the hall or church. He spent his working life of 55 years as a carpenter for Crockford Builders, beginning with Arthur then Bernard and later Roger and Peter. Alfie was an invaluable member of the funeral team so it was appropriate that Bernard, Roger and Peter carried him at the last. Alfie was a proud family man, being a dad, grandad and great- grandad. As Corvid 19 limited numbers, it was mainly Ann and family at the Waveney Crematorium. Sadly without his granddaughter from Australia. However most of those present felt that Alfie would have approved of the low key, but sincere, service conducted by Rev. Leon Collyer. His ashes will be interred at St Margaret South Elmham church.

If times were normal, hundreds would have been present to pay their respects to such a well-liked man.

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in my life. I ask your forgiveness.  
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

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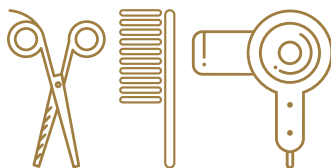
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However, many cards have been received by Ann and donations of £800 will be donated to St Margaret South Elmham Church in his memory.

*Bernard Crockford*

### **FROM ANN DAY**

I want to thank all my dear friends for their cards, letters, phone calls, flowers and donations at the sad passing of Alfie, it helped me to know that you were there. Also a big thanks and love to Sue and Peter, without them I wouldn't have coped. We hope to have a memorial service, we will let you know when. A great big thank you to Bernard Crockford for his kindness and arranging the funeral. Also to Susan Whymark and Rev Leon Collyer for a lovely service.

*Ann*

### **FROM THE TRACTOR CAB**

The weather has been a tester for our Fauna and Flora. Just before the snow there were a few sunny days, with that a few butterflies, wasps and midges hanging in the lee of a bush. Then the temperature tumbled and the snow fell, bird tables were inundated, topping up the feed several times a day. An electrical chap on the Flixton road had at least 28 black birds, feeding. Tits, pigeons, pheasants and only 6 black birds, each with their station, turned up here. A flock of fieldfares arrived and were mixed with a few thrushes in the hedges. The snow reveals many footprints, including a large variety of deer; roe, Chinese water, muntjac, fallow and red, they are all here, rabbit, hare and fox. On the warmer days the hares are getting excited chasing each other. Whilst ploughing, the wagtails soon turned up with the seagulls and starlings but not my usual kestrel, although a few rooks were mobbing a buzzard. The longer days have brought out the snowdrops and at the time of writing the first of the daffodils are putting their yellow heads out.

### **Homersfield**

Annual Meetings of Parishioners of St Cross and Homersfield

This meeting will be held on Zoom on Monday 12th April at 7.30pm. If any parishioners would like to attend, please get in touch with the Secretary, Lucy Hammond, by emailing [lucyhammond600@gmail.com](mailto:lucyhammond600@gmail.com) and you will be advised of the meeting admittance code.





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Homersfield, continued...

If you do not use the internet and wish to bring something to our attention, please phone 01986 788600. Now is also the time of year when you can be added to the Church Electoral roll.

### **Tower and Roof repairs**

We are pleased to say that we have been successful with two grant applications. We have been awarded £3900 from the All Churches Trust and £9000 from the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust. There is still a long way to go to reach our total of £112,313. Two more grant applications have been made and we continue with our fund raising.

### **Grand Music and Film Sale**

New dates for your diary are the weekend of July 24th and 25th for the sale. If you have any DVDs, CDs or Vinyl's that you are able to donate they can still be dropped off at Mill Cottage, Homersfield or we can collect them (telephone: 01986 788600 or email:

lawrie.hammond1@gmail.com)

We have also got a growing collection of bric-a-brac so there will be a bric-a-brac stall. If you are able to donate any, please hold on to it for the time being and it can then be dropped off or collected in the week beginning 19th July.

### **59 Club**

Two more people have recently joined the 59 club which is brilliant. This regular source of income, as well as being a bit of fun for those who take part, makes such a difference to the church. It costs £5 a month. Just to give you some idea of costs of keeping a Grade 2\* building going (without even thinking about repair), the annual insurance is over £900. If you would like a form, please get in touch with Tom Holdridge on 07593 982621.

### **A kindness**

A couple of weeks back there was a knock at the door and a lady handed over an envelope. She said it was her birthday and that she loved to visit Homersfield Church so wanted to give a donation. Inside the envelope was £25.

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As always, if you have suggestions or want to help with the church or churchyard, please get in touch with one of us.

*Homersfield Parochial Church Council (Revd Leon, Jo Westgate, Tom Holdridge, Lucy Hammond and Sally Rembrance)*

### **Homersfield Churchyard Vacancy**

The PCC are seeking to recruit someone to cut and trim the new churchyard, cut the paths through the old churchyard and keep the gravel paths and parking area clear of weeds. A small hourly rate will be paid and expenses (such as petrol) covered. Please register your interest by contacting the Churchwarden, Jo Westgate, on 01986 788996 or by emailing [jowestgate2@gmail.com](mailto:jowestgate2@gmail.com).

The daffodils in Church Wood are beginning to open reluctantly with cold wind and some frosty mornings though the snowdrops seem to last for ages and still look lovely especially the large leaved and petaled ones in the churchyard. Our environment is so precious to us all during lockdown and people are visiting their local open spaces more frequently and this results in more litter so a plea to people to take wrappers and tins etc. home to bin there and make sure we leave places as beautiful as we can for others to enjoy. The woodpeckers are drumming most days which is a delightful sound. Enjoy Spring and let's hope the frosts will soon cease and allow the trees to burst open their buds.

Many thanks to Michael for his first mowing of the green. It looks wonderful and shows off the daffodils beautifully.

*Sarah Day*

### **Homersfield Wood**

*Guided Walk – Flora and Fauna – Monday June 28th 2021*

There will be a guided walk, kindly led by Mark Timms on Monday June 28th 2021. It will begin at the church at 6pm and end at 7pm. Mark will be spotting and sharing information on both fauna and flora. The event is free, but because numbers are limited, please reserve your place by phoning Mark on 01986 788905 or emailing [sarahday7@hotmail.com](mailto:sarahday7@hotmail.com) and waiting for confirmation. Please bring binoculars if you have some. This event is open to everyone in the Saints and beyond.

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# Church Services

*AT PRESENT SERVICES ARE ON ZOOM AS GATHERING ARE NOT PERMITTED.*

Rev Leon Collyer 01986781345

21/3/21	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 3.00pm	Ilk St Margaret St James
28/3/21	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	St Lawrence
Easter Sunday			
4/4/21	Holy Communion	10.00am	Homersfield
14/4/21	Holy Communion OUTDOOR	10.00am 3.00pm	Flixton St John
21/4/21	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 3.00pm	Ilk St Margaret St James
PALM SUNDAY			
28/4/21	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 5.00pm	St Margaret S.E St Lawrence

**AT PRESENT SERVICES ARE ON ZOOM AS GATHERING  
ARE NOT PERMITTED.**

**These services are liable to change due to Government instruction.**

**However it is hoped to broadcast a live service on this link  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7296061906?pwd=eFZ6VFFlbUITVVBhZQ0N-jMnZ5d2VPQT09>**

**Meeting ID: 729 606 1906**

**Passcode: saints**

**If you need any help over the coming weeks and you think I  
might be able to help, please get in touch.**

**Praying for us all!**

**Leon**

**--**

**Rev Leon Collyer**

**Parsonage House, Low Street, Ilketshall St Margaret, Bungay,**

**Suffolk NR35 1QZ**

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## Homersfield, continued...

### Wood Working Parties

It has, of course, been very difficult to have working parties of any sort during these restricted times. By the time we are safe and permitted to do so, many creatures will have made their homes and shouldn't be disturbed. Therefore, the next working party will be on the morning of Saturday 26th September. A list of tasks will be drawn up and there will be room for people with skills and without on the team. Everyone is welcome.

### Homersfield Parish Council

Welcome to Sally Chapman – Homersfield's New Clerk

Councillors were pleased to welcome Sally Chapman as the new Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer at their meeting on 1st March 2021. Sally brings with her a keen knowledge of the local area and a range of skills that she has developed in managing four other local Parish Council since 2014.

Homersfield will value her expertise in local council administration and strong support for the village. Please visit HPC's website for all the Parish Council's agendas, minutes, finances, policies, local information and news at [homersfield.onesuffolk.net](http://homersfield.onesuffolk.net).

To contact Sally email: [homersfieldparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:homersfieldparishcouncil@gmail.com) or call 01379 855486.

*Angela Stokes, Chair – Homersfield Parish Council*



## Homersfield Parish Council

### *Parish Councillor Vacancy*

*Are you interested in parish matters and would you like to help the other four Councillors' make decisions for*

### ***Homersfield?***

*If you would like more information in becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact:*

**Clerk:** Sally Chapman Tel. 01379 855486

**Email:** [homersfieldparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:homersfieldparishcouncil@gmail.com)

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## **St Cross News**

Today we are bathed in glorious spring sunshine. Although tomorrow's forecast isn't so good, it is still hard to believe that only a few weeks ago we were in the grip of an arctic blast with snow, ice and some degree of grid lock. As usual our community spirit rose to the challenge as neighbours looked out for one another. Particular thanks are due to our farmers who helped to clear roads and kept things open where possible for those who had to travel. Simon Murton put in a lot of time on our roads for which we are all grateful.

## **Defibrillator**

The defibrillator (located on the back of the Telephone Box by Minster Cottages) is fully functional.

## **Phone box Library**

There is a good range of literature on the shelves for all ages and tastes. Many thanks to Monique with her assistant librarian, Henna, who has tidied the shelves regularly.

A number of "generous" donations in large bin liners have appeared in the phone box at intervals which have required sorting and either storing or transporting by one of us. Please donate with respect to the space available. We are all faced with the same Lockdown dilemma of time to clear our shelves at home but no charity shop open to donate to!

## **St George's Churchyard**

The churchyard has been looking springlike with pretty snowdrops fading to allow the daffodils to burst into life. However a relative visiting a family grave was distressed to find a lot of dog poo around the area and even on graves themselves. Notices have been placed at each entrance to the churchyard politely asking dog owners to clean up after their dog.

## **ST CROSS ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING**

Due to Covid rules this year's meeting will be held by Zoom. Anyone wanting to participate should contact a councillor for the link or if they want, they can write phone or email a councillor.

**Thursday 20th May at 7.30pm**

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## ST CROSS COUNCILLORS

Libby ffrench-Mullen	07597300112
John Sanderson	07958793298
Ian Noakes	01986782292

## ST JAMES

### CHURCH NEWS

We are hoping to start getting back to normal by having church services on site as well as on Zoom. These started on Mothering Sunday with a service in Flixton church so we hope to have one soon in St James. Meanwhile the spring bulbs are starting to pop up in the church-yard making the place look so welcoming. Thanks to all those who help to make it look tidy and cared for.

We are continuing to collect for the fund to restore the pews in the church. That will put the finishing touches to the inside of the church, which is already looking very smart since it was decorated in the summer. Come and have a look if you haven't done so yet. Cheques can be made payable to St James PCC and can be delivered to Abbey Farm. Any enquiries to Rachel Ritchie 01986 783889

As things stand at the moment the church will remain open and services will go ahead with all the necessary precautions.

Best wishes for 2021.

*Rachel Ritchie*

### HALL AND VILLAGE NEWS

Whilst there is some light on the horizon, we cannot, of course, fix any dates on to the hall calendar as yet. However, as soon as possible, we will be holding an outdoor celebration on the meadow behind the hall. The most likely date will be in July or August and will probably involve food! As soon as we are able to plan this, you will get the information by way of a flyer.

Indoor sports facilities will reopen as soon as Government guidelines permit.



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## **St James, continued...**

Jane Bastow regrets that her annual Open Garden will once again have to be cancelled on the 8th May but continues to sell bedding plants at the end of her drive.

Lastly, we are saying goodbye and good luck in their new home to Jan and Eric Chapell who are leaving us for Walpole. They will be sorely missed for their contributions to village life over the past few years but we hope to see them occasionally at our events.

## **ST PETER**

In the last edition I promised a mention for the first person to notice when I had given Carol's hair a lockdown cut. Clearly I am better at the hairdressing lark than I realised as no one really noticed. I will therefore be offering my services to everyone once we are allowed to meet up. Please form an orderly queue. You will only look slightly like the sheep-dog in the Specsavers advertisement afterwards.

The cold weather and snow was a bit of a shock, coming as it did after a spiring like day. It did make for some interesting walking though, even though it was a bit tricky at times. We even saw a council snowplough having to be rescued. It also meant that I spotted the first kingfisher I have seen for quite a while in St Michael. At the time of writing, we are battening down the hatches again for another storm but at least the sun has a little warmth now, when we occasionally see it.

The 49 club winners this time are Jez for February and the church for March as the number hasn't been issued. Please speak to Pamela if you would like a number. The building work in the church has finished now and the scaffolding has been removed. The builders have made a fine job of repairing the cracks using traditional techniques.

The vaccine rollout is going well and so we have to hope that that life will start to return to some sort of normality soon. I, for one, look forward to travelling further than Bungay or Halesworth. It was a real treat to go all the way to Southwold for the vaccine, only to find half the village there too. I'm pleased to say that I didn't have any side effects and I have waited in vain for a message from Bill Gates. The 5G will be handy though.

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St Peter, continued...

With a bit of luck we will find a sweet spot sometime this year between surges to have a village get together. Hopefully by the next edition in May we will have a better idea of what might be possible. A barbecue perhaps. Spring, after all, is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!"

## **FLIXTON**

Unfortunately, instead of the litter situation getting better, since there are not meant to be so many vehicles on the road Flixton is, like many more, getting alot. Thank you to those who continue to collect it, including the chap from 2 Sisters. It was unfortunate that the days for filling in pot-holes on Grange Road was the same time it was covered in snow, however I don't think it will be long before they are done.

### **January 2021 winners**

1st	Chrissie MacPherson	62
2nd	Marie Lamber	19
3rd	V. Hall	98

### **100 Club winners for February 2021**

1st	Jason Lain	16
2nd	Dexter Wong	66
3rd	Richard Davidson	28

## **FLIXTON ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING**

Due to Covid rules this year's meeting will be held by Zoom. Anyone wanting to participate should contact a councillor for the link or if they want ,they can write phone or email a councillor.

Monday 24th May at 7.30pm

### **Flixton Councillors**

Ken Warnes	01986 892629
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## **SPRING IS ON THE WAY**

Not long ago the landscape was white  
Everything covered, what a beautiful sight,  
The roads disappeared as the drifts got worse,  
Drivers didn't know whether to go forward or reverse,  
Some vehicles disappeared under the snow,  
Who did we turn to? Who did we know?  
Our army of farmers came out straight away,  
Heroes on tractors to help clear the way,  
But spring is 'a comin', the sun's getting stronger,  
The birds are 'a singing' and the days are longer  
There's a sense of excitement in the air,  
Things are improving after a very long year.

We've lived for months in this situation,  
No travelling, no hugging, no summer vacation,  
But we've learned to appreciate different things,  
Like the joy that watching the wildlife brings.

T.V.'s taught me a lot, that's for sure,  
I know more MPs now than ever before,  
Matt Hancock and Rishi Sunak are both very smart,  
But it's Jonathan Van Tam who's stolen my heart.

I look through my clothes, I may have to buy more,  
At this rate I won't be able to get through the door,  
But hopefully, soon, everything will be fine,  
Until then it's crisps, chocolate and a nice glass of wine.

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