

BLACK THORN BLOSSOM

SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

Issue No. 223

JUNE -JULY

FLIXTON BUCK HAS CHANGED HANDS

ST MARGARET S.E MUSIC IN THE MEADOW

HOMERSFIELD FILM & MUSIC SALE

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SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

June - July 2021

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Thank you to those who send contributions, they help keep this magazine going and FREE to over 400 households.

NEXT COPY DEADLINE JULY 7TH

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

EDITORAL

Never in my lifetime have two old adages been so true, firstly 'one swallow does not make a Summer' as I saw a solitary bird on April 11th and another on April 25th and now in May nothing. The second adage probably from north of Hadrians wall 'Ne'er cast a clout before May is out' basically means you should not be in a hurry to remove your warm clothing as May can be cold, best to wait to June.

GPC www.flixton.onesuffolk.net

The Grouped Parish Council of Flixton, St Cross and St Margaret South Elmham met by Zoom on 9th March 2021. The St Cross road sign has been repaired and reinstated and the St Cross defibrillator is now fully functional. GPC, continued...

P.Kidner and C.Sadler were nominated and elected to the St Margaret S.E Village Hall Committee. The dates for the Parish Meetings were also agreed. See details below.

Payments were agreed and paid to One Suffolk for the Council website, also to Tree consultants, Traffic survey in Flixton and the annual defibrillator service charge on Flixton's machine. Litter and dog excrement remains a growing concern. One of Flixton's postbox has been damaged and disappeared, Cllr Warne is pursuing this with Royal Mail. St Margaret S.E councillors announced the former amenity Green has been renamed the Alfie Day Green in honour of the village stalwart who had passed away. Next Meeting GPC AGM 11th May

ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS

these will take place in person but socially distanced
St Margaret S.E 17th May 7.30pm Village Hall
St Cross 20th May 7.30pm Batemans Barn
Flixton 24th May 7.30pm Village Hall

Sanitiser will be available. Masks to be worn

MOLE

Monster molehills, beside the Flixton/Bungay road have intrigued several people over the last few weeks, but despite some wishful thinking these were excavations by Suffolk Archaeological Unit.

Flixton Buck landlord, Philip Murray, has opened the Buck's Beer garden with heating, Slim Martin can usually be found here, in charge of the heating. Sadly, Bruce Lambert has passed away, condolences to the family. That wave and smile will be missed. Up at St Margaret S.E, Michael has an electric car, speedy little thing goes a long way on a single charge, pity it's a radio-controlled model. It's goodbye to Stuart and welcome to Helen and Alan Tissington. According to accounts, at St Cross, one enterprising young man (Paul Sykes) set a camera up in the Beck and was thrilled to see a fox and an otter, excited by these visions he laid some fish in front of the camera and was, he thought, dully rewarded by a dark image. Unfortunately, this focused on a black labrador known as Ripple, eating the fish. At St Nicholas, Simon Marsh, is starting an Electrical and security service 1986783885/07826712453. According to reliable sources, Flixton Buck has been sold and will remain a public house.



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FROM THE TRACTOR CAB

These cold conditions are not helping neither man nor beast. April had more frosts than November, December, January, February and March. Firstly, they were several weeks of very cold and dry, which was doing nothing to encourage the growth of plants or the hatching of insects for nourishment for the birds. Several of these who generally would have migrated here but have not arrived. What damage these late frosts have done to the blossoms of apple, plum and other trees and bushes, only time will tell. This dry spell has been followed by a wet cold week. Driving across the field it's always great to see pairs of Skylarks lifting up with their wings fluttering, before landing again. There appear to be several leveritts about. The cock pheasant is in full plumage with his harem following him. When the swallows, swifts, and matins will come, I don't know. The cuckoo has not been heard either. Operation Turtle Dove, which organises the surveying and feeding of these visitors, is taking place. The buttercups and cowslips are in abundance, as is the blackthorn blossom which is not only a source of pollen and nectar for bees and other insects, but the resulting fruits are sloes.

ST Margaret S.E DIARY rules allowing

· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Annual Parish Meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
(Meeting is in person) Social Distancing applies
Countryside Evening, Beck Valley, 6pm -8 pm
Music in the Meadow, Beck Valley, 1pm -6pm
Tickets on the Gate £5, 4 Bands, Bar, Grill
Plant and Produce Show, Village Hall
BBQ on the Alfie Day Green

COUNTRYSIDE EVENING in Beck Valley, St Margaret S.E This year's free event on 25th June from 6-8pm, features Gundog display, Wood cutting with Ben Loughrill, Joss's Bees, Vintage tractors, Birds of Prey, Sally's Plants and Robert Earl's mobile meal maker.

BRUCE LAMBERT

Bruce left school aged 15, to work as farm labourer at Stow Park for the Skinners; Roy, Aubrey and Doreen. Bruce found Marie, so before long, they became an item. After courting on 6th August 1966, they married at St Margaret's Ilk.

MUSIC IN THE MEADOW SAT 26TH JUNE I — 6PM JOIN US FOR THE GREAT UNLOCKINGS WITH

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Bruce Lambert, continued...

Bruce applied to Wilfred Le Gry's, of Flixton, for work. Bruce knew he had a house vacant; he landed the job and the house. Bruce and Marie settled into Harp Cottage, thankfully it had a garden, so all was well. Bruce was bush whacking with an old Ford 4000, an oil pipe burst, covering Bruce, from head to foot with oil. Whilst working with Peter Plumb, a thunderstorm came up, taking refuge in the car together, whilst the storm raged, lightning struck a nearby tree, with a huge flash and bang, the tree nearly fell on the car, a lucky escape!

Teresa was born and soon learned; she and her mum, would rarely see dad come harvest – he worked every waking hour – weather permitting! Bruce went with John Utting, at the sale of Flixton Farms. John and Bruce became great friends, Bruce ran him shopping and wherever was needed. Eventually John died and with Bruce now retired, John's boys David and Shaun, had Bruce check the cattle on the marshes.

Bruce was hard working, reliable, honest and an easy man to know and love, even if he was, always the last to get a joke.

He always kept himself to himself but thought the world of his family. Bruce loved his garden and made the most of every inch.

He was sometimes taken as a bit of a scruff, why, he was one of a kind. Bruce took on other people's gardens, only a select few, and was loved by all his clients. Bruce was best remembered, back to the fire, yodelling to Slim Whitman, though, not quite as well as Slim!

At the harvest festival, at the old hall, someone spiked Bruce's drink. Bruce never drank, so was well away having been shovelled into the car, sang 'nearly there, nearly there', all the way home. Teresa remembers seeing a cow having difficulty calving, Bruce told her do this or that and it was delivered, memories like that never fade. Bruce, a no fuss man, would rather be buried in the garden, without ceremony. At Marie and Bruce's silver wedding, a customer, Pat Turner Downs, boasted she could get Bruce to dance. She did not. Marie said, "I told her"! Bruce didn't like the thought of going out, however once out, he enjoyed

himself. Bruce never put himself forward. More, "do I have to" to hear 'Yes you do!' When Mark asked for Teresa hand in marriage. Bruce agreed, but when she later got the jitters, Bruce said, I've had you the last 20 years, get up those steps, go on! Just like driving cattle......

The Golden and Ruby wedding was celebrated.



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Bruce Lambert, continued...

Bruce loved wildlife, sport, golf, darts, snooker and horse racing. If anyone wanted a flutter, they would all put the same into the pot - the closest won, often Bruce! Bruce has always been known for his easy air and uncomplicated ways, He is loved and missed by many. He had been extremely ill for a time, but still he dug the complete garden, though he came in so exhausted, he wanted things right for Marie. Good old Bruce! Thank God for the gift of Bruce.

ST. CROSS NEWS

Spring has sprung as the saying goes! But what a cold, dry event it has been. COVID restrictions have allowed outdoor meetings, but thermals have been necessary. At last there is some warmth and much needed rain.

GARDEN OPEN

Squires Barn, St Cross South Elmham, IP20 0PA Sunday 11th July, 10.30-4pm, Admission £4, Children free Stephen and Ann Mulligan are opening their beautiful 3 acre garden at Squires Barn as part of the National Garden Scheme - Suffolk Gardens Open for charity. It is the first time this garden has been open to the public and is a huge accolade to their hard work, skill and vision. Come and enjoy the garden, light refreshments available, plants for sale and all proceeds for charity.

ST CROSS, ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 20th May at 7.30pm at Bateman's Barn South Elmham Hall.

Meetings are required to be in person but social distancing rules are to be followed. The agenda will shortly be posted on village noticeboards, items to be discussed will include "Water quality in the Waveney and septic tanks". There is information already posted on noticeboards regarding this matter. Please come along to the meeting however if you are unable to attend but wish to raise an issue, please contact any one of your Parish Councillors before the meeting date.

Your Parish Councillors are:

John Sanderson 07958 793298, Ian Noakes 01986 782292 Libby ffrench Mullen 01986 782230/ 07597 300112

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Is Your Waste LEGAL?

If you do not receive a bill for treating waste from Anglian Water, then you are unlikely to be connected to the mains sewage system. This means you will have either a septic tank or a package treatment plant instead.

A septic tank has chambers, which allows the solids to form into sludge at the bottom of the tank. Septic tanks must drain to land, not to a watercourse. A package treatment plant can drain to a watercourse provided that the plant is maintained properly. This liquid does still contain phosphate, which can have a negative impact on rivers.

The River Waveney Trust are providing advice and guidance on best practice management of domestic wastewater. Please contact Emily Winter on 07788 419475 or emily@riverwaveneytrust.org for more information or look out for a local talk/Q&A session in your area.

HOMERSFIELD

By chance listening to Saturday's edition of Farming Today's Weekly slot I heard of the plan for a Spring Equinox, Spring Clean across Britain. So I contacted a few Homersfield folk and had three teams; me out on Sunday 21st March and others doing it on weekdays soon after. Bags and bags were collected, mostly rubbish and some glass bottles, tins and other bits we could recycle. It made a huge difference straight afterwards and I want to thank Debbie and Ray, Lucy and Lawrie for their sterling efforts tackling the layby off Flixton Road (always lots of rubbish dumped) and Back Lane a place where people chuck waste out of their vehicles. Sadly, the amount of local littering during Lockdown periods seems to be intense and almost daily, including masks, rubber gloves, wet wipes and nasty things that should never be dumped. Let's make it a date, next Spring equinox to have even more teams out cleaning our verges and footpaths and open spaces. The more people who get involved, the bigger the impact. We will all be able to appreciate the improved environment even if that state is temporary.

Thanks again to Michael for cutting the village green. It sets off the centre beautifully. Let's hope the future of the playing field can be resolved soon and the site tidied up and reopened for families to use. Sarah

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Church Services

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

Rev Leon Collyer 01986 781345

23/5/21	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Cross
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	St Michael
30/5/21	Holy Communion	10.00pm	Flixton
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	St John
6/6/21	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Margaret
	Evening Prayer <i>outdoor</i>	5.00pm	St Lawrence
13/6/21	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Margaret SE
	Evening Prayer <i>outdoor</i>	5.00pm	St James
20/6/21	Holy Communion	10.00am	Homersfield
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	Rumburgh
27/6/21	Holy Communion + Bap Evening Prayer	tism 10.00 5.00p	
04/07/21	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Michael
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	Flixton
11/7/21	Holy Communion	10.00am	St John
	Evening Prayer <i>outdoor</i>	5.00pm	Ilk St Margaret

Just A Quick One

I have really cut it fine this time, I forgot the deadline for making a rhyme, I have had the editor on my case,

So I have to write something to fill this space....
Spring has sprung and the swallows are here,
But I haven't heard the cuckoo yet this year,
Primroses and cowslips made a wonderful show,
Now it's the magical haze where the bluebells grow.

Slowly things are beginning to change, But everything is still a little bit strange, We can go into all shops, wearing a mask, But going to the pub is a bit of a task, We can sit outside in the 'very fresh' air, Hands shaking, trying not to spill beer.

In a few weeks time I am going away,
Hunting for fossils down Dorset way,
You may be thinking (as do my brothers),
'Why would one old fossil go looking for others?'
Bloomin' cheek!

By Homersfields Pam Ayres (Sally Remblance)



HOMERSFIELD VILLAGE CHARITIES

Some residents may already be aware that there are three small charities in Homersfield established for the relief of those in need in the parish. These are as follows:

Homersfield Parish Land Trust

Established for the relief of any resident of Homersfield in need and for the general benefit of the inhabitants of the village.

William Adair (Homersfield) Charity and Poors Land Charity

Established to provide relief for any resident of Homersfield in need. If anyone should feel that either they or someone they know may be able to benefit from a grant from one of these charities, please feel free to approach one of the trustees – Tim Savile, Debbie Bird or Tom Holdridge (Parish Land Trust and William Adair charities) or Lucy Hammond, Jo Westgate or Tom Holdridge (Poors Land Charity). All approaches will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

Great Big Film and Music Sale -

in aid of St Mary's Church, Homersfield (Roof and Tower Appeal)

Sat 24th & Sun 25th July 2021, 10.00am – 3.00pm

We have been so grateful for the response to our appeal for CDs/DVDs and Vinyls – people have been generous indeed. Pricing the vinyls has been a real learning curve. Prices varying hugely on demand, condition and pressing. Donors can stipulate an amount above which records will be returned. Of course, it is only our research and not guaranteed. The venue for the sale is going to be Wortwell Community Centre to allow for better parking, toilet facilities and more shelter in the event of rain for both people and items for sale. There will be a bric-a-brac stall and tea and cake. If anyone would like to donate bric-a-brac, please hold on to it until the week of the sale and it can then be delivered or collected. We already have a vintage record player and a 1950's dollhouse in need of a makeover. If anyone can donate a cake, that would also be most appreciated. And if you have any more unwanted lurking DVDs, CDs or vinyls, please do get in touch.

Finally – PLEASE COME ALONG ON ONE OF THE DAYS – even just for a cup of tea/piece of cake/chat.

Homersfield Parochial Church Council, Homersfield Community Project Email lawriehammond1@gmail.com or lucyhammond600@gmail.com Mill Cottage, Homersfield or telephone 01986 788600

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OUTDOORS

Saturday 8th May a notice on the green announcing an outside service at Homersfield church starting at 5pm was read by me and as Sunday was supposed to be a dry, sunny day, I walked up following someone else looking determined to attend too. We were greeted by Jo and then chatted in the churchyard till the vicar and others arrived bearing a mobile organ and stand and music. It felt like watching a theatrical production. Some of us brought a stool or chair or even a small table out of the church to perch on. The vicar opened the service saying: 'with the woods surrounding us and a lake and river with its meadows', we would process and contemplate the trees and other features at about 9 places. It was a beautiful calm evening, the light dappling through the trees. We all really looked at the tall oak trees admiring their strength and beauty and long life. We even threw a stone to rid ourselves of troubles and give them away. I am not a practising Christian so some of the messages were quite religious. But I enjoyed the time and peacefulness and calm of the group and the time to look and think. It was a brilliant end to the weekend bringing tranquillity and centredness. The end amused me when Jo produced a poo bag for the collection and hung it on the back of a chair in the churchyard! Someone checked that it was indeed a clean one! The next outdoor service will be in Sunday 13th June at 5pm at St James. All welcome and it was truly enjoyable outdoor celebration.

Guided walk in Homersfield Wood -

Monday June 28th 2021 6pm-7pm

There are a few places left to join this free guided walk led by Mark Timms. Mark will be spotting and sharing information on both fauna and flora. The event is open to everyone in the Saints and beyond. To reserve your place please phone Mark on 01986 788905 or email sarahday7@hotmail.com and wait for confirmation.

Please bring binoculars if you have some and wear suitable footwear/

Please bring binoculars if you have some and wear suitable footwear/clothing. The walk will begin at St Mary's Church, Homersfield and parking will be available (access from St Cross road).

Homersfield Parish Council have a vacancy for a councillor please APPLY To CLERK *Sally Chapman* 01379 855486, email homersfieldparishcouncil@ gmail.com

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EASTER TRAIL From St Margaret Church

Thank you to all who came to the Good Friday Easter trail at St Margaret SE church. With a lovely walk along the Beck following the Easter story and hunting eggs it was enjoyed by both the adults and children. The two fluffy bunnies went to lovely homes with Florence and Alfie and the Easter egg draw had 8 lucky winners. All in all we raised £130 for church funds. We look forward to seeing you next year.

Sara Mulhearn

FLIXTON

Flixton Annual Parish Meeting 24th May 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All welcome, Socially Distanced

UK Power

Fingers crossed, maybe the long-standing route issues have been finally ad-dressed. I've had many conversations with UK Power over several months and it seems their local area manager is keen to resolve the problem of brief network service interruptions. It may have been a realisation that their Facebook page is a useful tool for disgruntled customers to embarrass them, but whatever method works must be good.

Drains In The Street

After years of dealing with Suffolk County Council Highways department, we were shocked and pleasantly surprised to see that the three roadway drains leading into Flixton from Bungay have at last been cleaned. I say cleaned, but the first job of the drain cleaning team was to actually find the drains and dig them out, covered as they have been for at least 27 years! They used temporary traffic lights which created some entertainment. The VW field maintenance van for Claas farm machinery thought it was fine to speed up to 50 and drive through a red light, because the driver felt more important than his fellow citizens. Par for the course, I suppose. Anyway, the drain test came on Saturday 8th May when continuous overnight rain had resulted in huge puddles across the B1062, outside the village. Usual-ly when that happens, I have to leave my driveway wearing a wetsuit and snorkel... but it was clear. No boating lake outside the Buck!

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Speed/Traffic Check

There have been some recent mobile safety camera speed checks which may give the village some temporary respite from speeders.

A volume/speed check is currently in place outside the Buck. Let's hope it's to assess the speeding in order to improve things rather than counting HGVs to see if we can take some more of Bungay's traffic.

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

100 CLUB

March 2021		April 2021	
1st. Andrew Hinsley	47	1st. Terry Stewart	8
2nd. Sue Hall	67	2nd. Dexter Wong	66
3rd. Sam Lee	13	3rd. David Warford	43

St PETER

After a wet winter we were then moaning that it was too dry. At the time of writing, we are definitely (quick LOD reference) in, "be careful what you wish for" territory. This time last year we were celebrating the VE day anniversary in the middle of a balmy beautiful spring. This year I wouldn't be surprised if the swallows and cuckoos don't ask for their money back and head south again. Hopefully by the time this issue is delivered the weather will have perked up.

The annual bric a brac stall has been expanded to include a plant sale. It is all happening on 29th May from 10am to 4pm outside St Peters Cottage, next to the church. Some excellent items have been donated for the bric a brac stall along with many plants for the garden and greenhouse. I'm sure David will be there with his patented social distancing hat to maintain order, as long as it's not too windy.

Speaking of David, I hear he has enrolled on the elementary duck herding course after his efforts to keep a mother and 12 ducklings off the road resulted in them all ending up in his house. They apparently didn't wipe their feet (or anything else) on the way in or, eventually, on the way out. For those waiting for news of the annual boules championship, I'm afraid I have bad news. Whilst the situation generally is improving quickly, with just 2 months to go we have decided to postpone again until 2022, by when things will hopefully have improved.

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Contact Details inside front cover

St Peter, continued...

The 49 club for April and May was won by Julia and Pamela. Numbers are still available if you would like to play with the proceeds going to the church. Please speak to Pamela.

Our resident moorhens are still laying waste to anything and everything, animal and vegetable around our pond. They have even been challenging a cock pheasant. It is like an episode of Peaky Blinders out there most days. At least there are only 3 or 4 now rather than the 14 we had towards the end of last year. Fortunately, Ali and Jez were able to foster some frogs spawn a few weeks ago before they had a chance to get at it. I have heard the frogs calling again recently so they might be about to have another go now the weather has warmed up a little.

The elections are over for a few years. With a bit of luck, the next time we are asked to vote we won't need a face mask. We can go back to the old-fashioned method of holding our nose as we put our cross in the box.

ST JAMES

CHURCH NEWS

Services are back now in the benefice, with 10am Eucharist in one of the churches every Sunday. We're singing a hymn outside at the beginning and end of the service, which gives us all a chance to take part. The next service in St James is an outdoor evening prayer at 5 pm on Sunday 13 June, so please join us and let's hope it's not raining. The church AGM was/will be held on Thursday 20 May at 7.30pm. All villagers welcome. Best wishes Rachel Ritchie PCC secretary

HALL AND VILLAGE NEWS

Road map permitting, we will now be reopening the hall for business from the 17th May.

BADMINTON will resume on Wednesday mornings, Thursday evenings and Friday mornings. Contact Caroline on 01986 782545 for details.

TABLE TENNIS will resume on Wednesday evenings. Details as above. We also have equipment for SHORT TENNIS and PICKLE BALL. To hire the hall for this and any private events, please contact Jane on 01986782413.

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St James, continued....

AND... We can finally offer the promised celebratory event in the form of a BARBECUE AND BUFFET TO BE HELD ON 17TH JULY from 4pm onwards. This will be on the Green behind the hall and will be a FREE event but please BYO alcohol. There will be a raffle. There will be no tickets required but we ask you to please contact Jane on 782413 to let us know numbers or someone may miss out!

We do not intend to hold a Christmas lunch in December as the uncertainty of social life may well be back by then!

Peggy Andrews

Sadly, we have to report the passing of Peggy Andrews, a long-standing resident of St James after a long illness. Our thoughts are with her family.

ORCHARD NEWS

Despite the record-breaking frosty and dry April the orchard has been waking up. The wide variety of plum trees put on a very good blossom show and this is now being followed by all the apples, the biggest fruit by number in the orchard, and pears.

The first cut of the meadow was done early in April and since then Jeremy and Chris have been busy completing the replacement of the tree guards - almost 100 in all, the first half of which were done in 2019. All looking very smart now with the information labels mostly attached to the guards to make them more easily visible.

It's not all good news, though: both the apricot trees had died, one of them produced the first fruit from the orchard 10 years ago. We think peach tree borer larvae were the culprits – they burrow around beneath the bark and can effectively ring-bark the tree from within. We also lost an apple tree due to deer ring-barking it. All three have been removed and their positions marked with stakes and labels. Anyone with suggestions for interesting replacements is welcome to make them known.

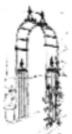
Visitors will find the pedestrian gate no longer propped open. This was originally done as part of corona virus precautions. However, it was making it too easy for large wildlife to wander in and help themselves (see above) so it is back on the latch. The orchard is supporting the Plantlife "No Mow May" campaign in aid of bees and other pollinators, so don't be surprised if it looks wilder than usual. We will get back to the customary mown outer path and rows at the end of the month.

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