

NATURES FORCE STORM EUNICE AT ST CROSS

SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

Issue No. 228 APRIL - MAY

ST MARGARET.S.E DAFFODIL DAY 10TH APRIL

FLIXTON FORMER RESIDENT AND BUCK

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SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

April - May 2022

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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 MAY 7TH

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

EDITORAL

It takes a lot to get your head around Russia invading Ukraine. There's been nothing like this since the end of the second World War, sadly like then it appears to be one man with a passion for power. Unlike many of the conflicts in the world this is one of the superpowers invading its democratic neighbour, threatening to use its nuclear arsenal, even if its own people are affected. The Ukrainians have not long been free of the Russian yoke and are not going to give up easily. It makes you think what would we do if it was us?

GPC www.flixton.onesuffolk.net

The Grouped Parish Council met via Zoom on 17th January 2022. Traffic and speeding were discussed in Flixton. Remedial work on trees in St Margaret and St Cross is still waiting.

GPC continued....

A new grit bin to replace the broken one in St Felix rise, was also passed. The undergrounding of UkPower's cables is on hold until better ground conditions. Efforts to put in a drop kerb by Abbey Road to facilitate wheelchairs and prams is still ongoing. Sam Kenward, East Suffolk's Communities Officer, is to be invited to the next meeting to direct the council how to help the build a network to help those experiencing hardships and how to help vulnerable.

Next Meeting: Batemans Barn, 15th March at 7.30pm.

MOLE

Rum times we are living in; 2 years of Covid, never heard of, then 'bang wallop' Russia invades Ukraine, something unheard since 1945. At St Margaret it's no surprise then that Philip and Carol Cook have returned to Australia. That was just after the 3 gales, which knocked down a tree or two. Thanks to David Page and Peter (Foreman) Copeman, under the managerial gaze of Tracey, for clearing them up. We say farewell to Peter and Sue's Australian family as they have been 'acclimatising' in St Margaret before moving to Buckinghamshire. Thank you to Simon and Harry Murton for cleaning out the village Hall ditch. UK Power are nearly ready to connect the houses to the new underground cable. At badminton learning never stops, the opposition asked 'where are the scaffold pants?' Play stopped 'Scaffold pants?' What on earth are 'scaffold pants?' 'Well, you walk on them' the mind boggles. Apparently he meant scaffold planks, but it got lost in the Geordie translation. Grange Road Flixton road closure, whilst the long awaited drainage and widening is done, is amongst many things, an eye opener, as not one but two (never can find a bus and then two come along) double decker Eastern Counties Bus' go past loaded with the work force for 2 Sisters. It's many years since a bus went through here, let alone a double decker. Sadly former Flixton resident and landlord of Flixton Buck, Andrew Gilham has passed away. Sympathies to the family. He and his wife Moy first took over when a bottle of beer was 7/6d. and had it for a period of about 12 years, actually selling it and buying it back, as part of a partnership deal more recently. Also long term resident of Flixton, Lillian Hinsley, has also passed away. A follower of the Flixton and South Elmham Annual and Produce Show, which has the Le Grys challenge cup donated by her family.



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Mole continued...

Welcome to the Brooks at St Cross. Down at Homersfield, if you do not have a short sleeve shirt, you just cut the sleeves off a long sleeved shirt.

FROM THE TRACTOR CAB

The days are getting longer and talking to other local people, up until a few weeks ago the birds were not attending the bird tables very often, now there are blue tits, great tits, blackbirds, long tailed tits, robins, sparrows, thrushes and several more. I can only think this is to get in condition for the nesting season. The cock pheasant likes to strut under the bird tables in all his splendour, ears up, and woe betide if another cock bird ventures near, because it beaks out full speed to remove the offender. The grass, like many things, has not really stopped growing all winter, many of the brambles and nettles are normally knocked back by the frost, but this year there has hardly been one. How this has affected many of the animals that normally hibernate, I don't know. Animals such as bats and frogs must wonder what is happening.

St MARGARET S.E DIARY

events at the VILLAGE HALL unless stated

18th March Quiz, 7.30pm, £6, refreshments,

Bring Your Own Drink, raffle

19th March Litter pick, 2.00pm, meet at the Hall

4th April Annual Village Meeting, 7.30pm, All WELCOME

10th April Daffodil Day, 11am-4pm, The Old Rectory 21st April Parochial Church Council AGM, 2.30pm 25th April Village Hall AGM, 7.30pm ALL WELCOME

3rd June Village Hall Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, teas, bar,

games, with a 1950's theme.

24th June Countryside Evening Beck Valley, 6-8pm

9th July Flower and Produce Show

16th July BBQ on the Green

25th Sept Harvest lunch bring your own drink

14th October Quiz Refreshments. Bring your own drink raffle 18th Nov Quiz Refreshments, Bring your own drink, raffle

11th Dec Christmas lunch



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ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING

All Welcome

St Margaret S.E Village Hall, Monday April 4th at 7.30pm
Flixton Village hall, Tuesday April 12th at 7.30pm
St Cross Batemans Barn, Tuesday April 19th at 7.30pm

DAFFODIL SUNDAY at the Old Rectory IP20 0PJ

Daffodil Sunday on April 10th at the Old Rectory St Margaret South Elmham, with flower and plant stall, tombola, cakes teas and lunches. All set in lovely gardens, open from 11pm-4pm. Entrance £2

ST JAMES

CHURCH NEWS

The churchyard is looking lovely with spring flowers all around and everything beginning to bud. Our thanks to everyone who keeps it tidy. We have an evening service on 10th April at 5pm. It will be held outdoors (weather permitting)!

HALL AND VILLAGE NEWS

The usual activities continue in the Hall – for badminton and table tennis session details, please contact Caroline Rodbourne.

As you know the Queen will celebrate her Platinum Jubilee this June, with a couple of extra Bank Holidays being added to the calendar. In the village, we will be celebrating on one of the weekend days (4th or 5th June to be decided).

We are currently planning this event but be assured that the festivities will involve a meal for all, with activities for the children and hopefully some live music. There will be no charge and we hope that as many of those who live in the village will come along.

We will also be dedicating the fledgling oak tree which has been given to the village as part of the celebrations and which is to be sited on our Village Green behind the hall.



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Trudi - 07852 259 131

St James' continued....

The "Green" has until now, belonged to the local Council but is being granted to the village and will be the focus of our outside events in future. We also hope to carry out some planting around the area in order to enhance it. Help with this, as well as ongoing maintenance of Sheet Field Wood at the far end would be most welcome. Contact Chris on 782582 if you would like to help with this.

Details of the above event will drop through your doors in the near future but in the meantime, it would be very helpful if you could register your intention of attending by calling Jane Bastow on 01986 782413. This will help us greatly with the planning right now.

OPEN GARDEN

Jane will be hosting her annual on SATURDAY, 14TH MAY, FROM 10-5pm. Venue. -THE LABURNUMS. - Enjoy the garden as well as Plant Stall, Books, Cakes and Raffle.

BBQ all day and music from the WAVENEY BRASS BAND, playing 3-4pm. Admission £3.00, and 50p for supervised children. In aid of `Suffolk Wildlife Trust, plus other charities.

There have been quite a few changes of households in St James recently and so we wish lots of luck to those departing to pastures new, whilst extending a warm welcome to our new neighbours – we hope to see you at a village event soon!

HOMERSFIELD PLAY-AREA

We are hoping to be able to re-open the play area in the foreseeable future, but to do so, need help with maintenance and for volunteers to go on to a rota to complete the monthly safety checks (a form is provided and the first check will be done with a councillor). Please get in touch with Sally Chapman, Clerk to the Parish Council – email homersfield-parishcouncil@gmail.com if you can help in either capacity.

VILLAGE LITTER PICK – Saturday 5th March 2022

Thank you to the four people who kindly cleared much of the village of litter. Six bags were collected. Residents should also be grateful to those who collect litter whilst walking. The next 'official' litter pick will be in October. The more people who come, the bigger area we can clear.

Monthly Flower Arranging Workshops

First Tuesday of the month 10.00am until 3.00pm

St Margaret South Elmham Village Hall

Everyone welcome. no experience necessary!

01986 782377

flowersbyjenni@gmail.com

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Jenni Baker





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Homersfield contined...

Snowdrops were waiving their heads amongst the bottles, cans and crisp packets -it is impossible to get into the mindset of those who think it is acceptable to litter.

THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

East Suffolk Council have kindly given Homersfield an oak tree to commemorate this special occasion. In addition, there will be a plaque on the village sign. We are hoping to arrange a free tea and cake event on the afternoon on Sunday 5th June. More details of this will follow in the next magazine.

GUARDIAN OF THE PHONE BOX

We are still seeking someone to take care of the restored phone box, putting in information, which has been agreed by the council, about local fauna and flora/history etc. If you are interested, please get in touch with Sally Chapman, Clerk to the Parish Council – email:

homersfieldparishcouncil@gmail.com

Meeting Dates

Our 2022 meeting dates/agendas etc. can be found on the village notice board and on the website

http://homersfield.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/

The next Parish Council meeting is on Tuesday 3rd May 2022 at 6pm in The Black Swan.

Raise a mug - St Mary's Church, Homersfield is safe and sound at last! Our much-loved church is being given a new lease of life. The roof and tower are being repaired. Our wonderful builders have been working through the ever-changing weather to ensure that we are on schedule. This could not have happened without the support of the local community and the generosity of grant funding.

We are grateful to all those who have supported us, whether through donations or attending one of our events – the most recent being our 'Great Big Film and Music Sale' held in Wortwell Core last Summer. We are thankful for those funders who have made this possible, with our largest contribution coming from the Heritage Stimulus Fund, part of the Government's Culture Recovery. It is administered by Historic England.

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Church Services

Rev Leon Collyer 01986 781345

27/03/22	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Cross
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	St Michael
03/04/22	Holy Communion	10.00am	Flixton
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	St John
10/04/22	Palm Sunday Holy Communion Outdoor	10.00am 5.00pm	Ilk St Margaret St James
17/04/22	Easter Sunday Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 5.00pm	St Margaret SE St Lawrence
24/4/22	Holy Communion	10.00am	Homersfield
	Evening Prayer	17.00pm	Rumburgh
01/5/22	Holly Communion	9.30am	St Peter
	Informal	11.00am	Flixton
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	St Michael
08/5/22	Holly Communion	10.00am	Rumburgh
	Evening Paryer	5.00pm	Ilk St Margaret
15/5/22	Holly Communion	10.00am	Ilk St John
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	Homersfield
22/5/22	Holly Communion	10.00am	St James
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	St Margaret SE
22/5/22	Holly Communion	10.00am	St James
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	St Margaret SE
29/5/22	Holly Communion	10.00am	St Cross
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	Ilk St Lawrence

South Elmham & District Local History Group meeting

Thursday March 31st - 'A History of Norfolk in 100 Places'
At St Margaret South Elmham Village Hall - 7.30pm
Everyone is most welcome, you do not have to be a member to attend.
£3 on the door, £1 members including refreshments

WORTWELL BOWLS CLUB

Wortwell Bowls Club is at Wortwell Community Centre, playing on a green from April to September on Monday afternoons and/or Wednesday evenings. There may be some matches against local clubs too. There will be a free taster Open afternoon on Sat 7th May from 2pm. Please contact Phil Poulton who can tell you more: 01986 788149 philpoulton5@gmail.com

2022 - A DIFFICULT YEAR AHEAD FOR MANY

FOOD and FUEL POVERTY is a real threat for many of us. The Grouped Parish Council has been concerned about the possibility that some in our community will face real hardship in the coming year and we have collated the following information to try to support anyone who is worried about being able to heat their home or feed themselves or their family. We hope the information may help but PLEASE, PLEASE talk to someone if you are in difficulty. Your Parish Councillors are available to help and support and will do so in strictest confidence.

Useful sources of help and support

WAVENEY FOODBANK

waveney.foodbank.org.uk
Waveney food bank visits a number
of venues in our area including
Harleston, Bungay, Halesworth,
Beccles and Diss. Check online for
venues, days and times.
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CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU

Provides free advice and information.

There are branches in:

Bungay (Ph: 01986 895827)

Halesworth (Ph: 01502 717715)

Beccles. (Ph: 01502 717715)

Contact information:

citizensadvice.org.uk

Tel: 0800 144 8848

MSE (MONEY SAVING EXPERT)

www.moneysavingexpert.com
Online advice and information. This includes 'What to do if you're struggling to pay your energy bills' and 'Energy saving tips'.

Homersfield continued...

Claire Walker, CEO National Churches Trust said, 'The funding is a vote of confidence in the future of historic church buildings and a recognition of their importance to society.'

We are thankful to the National Churches Trust who put us forward for the Heritage Stimulus Fund and awarded us funding through their Cornerstone grant and Wolfson Fabric Repair grant. We have also received help from Suffolk Historic Churches, AllChurches Trust and Homersfield Community Project.

The work should be completed by the end of May and we are busy planning celebration events including a talk by local metal detectorist, Joe Edwards-Gill.

The day before the scaffolding was erected, the congregation raised a coffee cup to celebrate our wonderful little church being safe and sound once more.

Many thanks to Lucy Hammond for all the hard work she has done over the last few years to access grants for our lovely church. We are now having the roof and tower repaired all thanks to, Lucy.

Jo Westgate (Church Warden)



ANNUAL PARISHIONER'S MEETING

Churches of Homersfield and St Cross. All are welcome to attend the annual meeting for the parishioners of Homersfield and St Cross. The meeting is in St George's Church, St Cross on Tuesday 12th April beginning at 7.30pm.

CHURCH WOOD Volunteers

Three named storms in a week have left a lot of fallen timber to tidy up into habitat piles. Most of the trees that have come down were dead, so we have spent the last 2 volunteer tasks clearing up the debris. There will be a pause in the work parties now until the autumn.

Mark Timms

Homersfield Tree Warden

Pete Wallis a local carpenter

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ST CROSS

It's been a busy time between stormy weather and road repairs. The road through St. Cross was closed for a couple of days and whilst almost everyone tolerated the inconvenience, it was shocking to see the verbal aggression and bullying behaviour of a very small number of road users. The police had to be called on one occasion when a van driver verbally abused the worker manning the road closed barrier and then nudged him with his van.

TREE DOWN

During Storm Eunice on 18th February, a tree was blown across the road. It fell from the verge on Minster Cottages green onto the pink shed belonging to The Cottage. Thankfully no one was hurt. Thanks once again goes to Simon and Harry Murton for clearing the road. The tree had been identified as a concern by Minster Cottage residents, and the Grouped Parish Council had agreed to fund remedial works, however Eunice got there first.

TELEPHONE BOX FOOD SUPPLIES

As we face huge rises in food, fuel and energy prices, it becomes more and more important to look after our community.

A small box has been placed in our telephone box to allow non perishable food items to be left for anyone who needs it. No one should go hungry. Use or donate as you need/can.

PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The Queen will celebrate her Platinum Jubilee in June this year. Communities around the country will come together to celebrate this landmark event. Like many small villages, the lack of a community venue in St Cross makes coming together a bit more of a challenge. Stephen and Ann Mulligan of Squires Barn have very kindly offered their garden as a venue for village residents to get together to celebrate. The idea is that we have a village picnic, each of us bringing our own food and drinks. We will be able to enjoy the lovely surroundings and socialise with our neighbours. The date proposed is Sunday 5th June. More information will follow nearer to the time but note the date and we look forward to an opportunity to get together with friends and neighbours.

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OPEN GARDEN

Following a very successful debut in 2021, the garden at Squires Barn will be open again this year on Sunday 17th July under the National Garden Scheme. Mark the date! All proceeds go to charity and apart from the lovely garden, there's a great selection of cakes too!

FLIXTON

REVITALISING OUR VILLAGE

Here's an invitation from Lin Smith, one of our residents looking to breathe a little life back during a time when community spirit seems pretty important. *This Is Your Village, Let's Shake It Up A Bit!*Don't miss out. Everyone is invited, from existing neighbours to newcomers, to attend a get together on Thursday 31st March, 7.00pm at the Buck Inn. We'd like to get your ideas and thoughts around what activities or events we could hold throughout the year. We look forward to seeing you!

GETTING TO GRIPS WITH SPEEDING

From Terry Hunt, a "call to arms" aimed at trying to tackle an age old village issue, speeding.

Dear Villagers, I've applied to Suffolk Police to become a volunteer coordinator for the Community Speed Watch Scheme. We have 5 volunteers so far and one more will see us up and running. It means a small commitment of only around 2 hours per month, involving recording excess speed and passing this information on to the Police who then send warning letters to offenders.

The aim is to reduce speeding, a known issue in Church Road and The Street. I believe this small commitment will positively benefit our village. If you wish for more information, please contact Terry/Sandra on 01986 892177 or email us at sanderry@tiscali.co.uk.

CHRIS'S WALK FOR CHARITY

Chrissie Mac who already does a great deal in support of cancer charities has come up with another idea. So she's looking for your help. From the 1st of march to the 31st she's walking 10,000 steps per day in aid of Cancer Research UK. So far she has £140 of sponsorship and any more donations will be gratefully received.



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Pete Madder-Smith 100 CLUB

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2nd Doug & Loraine Stewart 81

3rd Gary Doughty 57

February

1st Ellie May Hinsley 14 2nd Caden Hennessy 38

3rd Doug & Loraine Stewart 101

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- Road Tow compressors
- Compact Tractors/Garden Tractors Year 1990-2006
- Dumpers Year 1993-2010
- Agricultural Tipping Trailers/Low loaders
- Commercial Tri axle Tipping trailers
- Tractors 70HP and Down

Please call Jack 07795 056715 Same day payment Competitive prices paid Flixton continued...

If you keep a look out, you'll see Chris in her yellow wellies and her pet collie dog Cassie trudging around the village. Well done to Cassie who must be doing 20,000 steps per day! If you want to contribute, please contact Chris on 01986 892656.

GRAVEL PIT EXPANSION

We recently visited the communication event organised by Breedon Ltd at the Buck. The proposed new workings will take place over around 5 years, excavating about 200,000 tons of sand and gravel products per year from the fields to the left of the B1062 heading for Bungay just outside the village. It'll mean somewhere around 70 lorry movements per day east to west carrying products through The Street in our village to be processed at the existing gravel pit site on the Homersfield side of the village. Once the excavations are complete there will be two large lakes returned to the responsibility of the existing land owners.

The Quarry manager Brian Beales has always been very careful to mitigate any negative effects, so I reckon the lorry movements will be respectful of pedestrians and residents. For me, the major concerns are that "spoil" from the lorries may help to block existing badly maintained drains along The Street and the potential for more flooding from two new lakes on the east of the village.

The Buck - Ukraine Support

If anyone wants to make donations of warm clean clothes (and gently worn shoes of any style) new packaged socks, new toiletries, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste and unopened medical supplies (no needles), these can be dropped off at The Buck and the team will arrange collection.

St PETER

A different correspondent this month

It seems truly parochial given what is happening in the world but back home in St Peter the (saga of) the beet goes on!

Three cars in our ditches over the last two years – a result of mud on road (unforewarned) - were joined this "season" by two beet trucks and part of their load.

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LOOKING FOR A HOBBY WAVENEY VALLEY & DISTRICT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AN FNGINEER

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wvadps@hotmail.com 01986893092



St Peter continued....

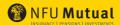
The ditch just east of St Peter's House would be blocked still if it wasn't for the community spirit of Adrian at Low Farm who, having towed the aforementioned trucks from their resting place in the first instance, recently took it upon himself to clear the spilled beet before the rot set in. The farmer who owned the load; the contractor carting it; and Suffolk Highways showed not the slightest interest in clearing up, so "thank you" Adrian.

The state of our local environment really is deteriorating in real time. I well recall the bad old days of the 1960s and 70s when hedgerows were ripped out, woods removed and ponds filled to create the intensively farmed fields that still largely dominate our landscape today. I can even remember the excitement at St Lawrence School when on occasion neighbouring fields were "dusted" with chemicals from the air; dusting inquisitive 9-year olds at the same time of course.

It seems that the period of modest "enlightenment" encouraged by grants and subsidy, that saw some hedges and ponds re-instated; areas of setaside or cover-crops established and field margins broadened is coming noticeably to an end with the cessation of EU funding and the failure to establish a much-vaunted national scheme in its place. Industrial agriculture with its reliance on high quantities of pesticides, herbicides and artificial fertiliser and the soil compaction that results from over-size farm machinery, renders much of our local environment ecologically depleted if not sterile. Potentially, the last vestiges of "communal biodiversity" are (were?) to be found in our roadside verges and ditches and in maturing hedgerows. But our verges are trashed by heavy vehicles (particularly by sugar-beet operations); the ditches fill in with mud and other debris from the roads; and the hedges are regularly flailed regardless of "need", negating their crucial role as habitats for birds, insects, mammals and plant life. And now to add insult to ecological injury our village and its roads is subject to heavy trucks on diversion from the poultry factory in Flixton. No consultation; no direct communication; no respect whatsoever for local inhabitants and their environment; just noise and disruption and damage 24/7 for at least two months! Grrrrrrr.

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St Peter continued...

English Pastoral is rapidly becoming more Tragedy of the Commons. As the local roads crumble under the weight of traffic, for which they were never intended, or are coated in mud, life as a pedestrian, cyclist or horse rider is getting dangerous. Road edges have subsided, potholes are rife and there is often no verge to step onto to avoid the oncoming tractor or chicken lorry. We cyclists are now told it is our right to ride in the middle of the road, but for many years there has been no option hereabouts as the road edges are accidents waiting to happen! Mind you riding in the middle of the road is no guarantee of safety. This counterblast to our modern ruralis was inspired while lying on the cold, hard "S" bend between Spexhall and Rumburgh, waiting for the paramedics to arrive, a victim of an invisibly mud-slicked surface. Thank you so much to Rumburgh residents Jane Spill and Paul Baldwin for their assistance and to the East of England Ambulance Service and Suffolk Constabulary for their rapid turn-out. Couldn't help a sense of schadenfreude as the slurry tankers were backed up waiting for the human wreckage to be cleared!

On a more positive note, we seem to have survived the week of storms (all three of them) without injury or major damage. Some dislodged roof tiles and fallen boughs seemed a scant but fortunate "result" given the dire warnings. Down by the Beck the most apparent impact was the strength and noise of the wind drowning out the wind chimes from the hippy neighbours! Who says irony is dead?

Joe Edwards-Gill - Local Metal Detectoristy

A Tale of Treasure

Come and enjoy a talk with slides and a 'finds' table.

Friday 6th May 2022 - 7.30pm St Mary's Church, Homersfield

Wine/tea and cake - Suggested donation £10, Bring a cushion
To reserve a space on a pew,
please contact Lucy Hammond on 01986788600 or email
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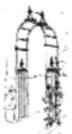
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