



**ST MARGARETS' HANDBELLS BEING RUNG  
AT EASTER SERVICE AT ST CROSS**

# **SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS**

Issue No. 242

**JUNE - JULY 2024**

**ST MARGARET S.E    COUNTRYSIDE EVENING  
CLASSIC VEHICLE SHOW**

**ST CROSS                    OPEN GARDEN**

**ST MARGARET S.E AND DISTRICT  
FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW**

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# SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

June -July 2024

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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*

## EDITORIAL

Another election, this time for a Police and Crime Commissioner, although that was only a guess, on arrival at the hall and having offered my polling card and photo I.D I am given a voting card, with three names and parties on. Apart from one, I have never heard or seen the others. No card or pamphlet through the door or a poster on a notice board! Even the one I have heard of there was nothing and the only reason I have heard of him is because he is the present office holder. This is the communication age: emails, social media, WhatsApp and more. Newly formed St Margaret S.E Handbells, playing at the Easter service St Cross (see Cover), will be playing at St Margaret S.E church on 26th May 10.00am.

## **GPC**

The Grouped Parish council of Flixton, St Cross and St Margaret South Elmham met at Batemans Barn by invitation of Mr and Mrs Sanderson on 12th March 2024. Cllr French-Mullen reported on a site meeting in St Cross, which had been arranged by County Councillor Judy Cloke, who was also in attendance with two representatives from both Highways and the Environment Agency, as well as parishioner David Hill. The flooded areas were visited and the relevant authority assessed the problem and will hopefully carry out remedial work. Cllr Warne had met with East Suffolk Council Services at St Felix Rise in Flixton to discuss parking, another meeting arranged by County Cllr Judy Cloke.

Next meeting AGM FLIXTON 14th May 2024 7.30pm

## **MOLE**

Sun is shining, it makes people smile and some people's antics can cause you to nearly cry. I'm told that down at Halesworth Golf Club, Mike De Crescenzo had a hole in one. I have it on good authority that after a drink or two a resident of St Margaret S.E, who had been attending a football match in Bungay, had a personal emergency, he had become entwined in a goal net and trying to deal with this caused him to fall over and get in a bigger muddle. There was also the case at St Andrews I'm reliably informed by an All Saints resident. Apparently there was a bollard that leapt up and put a dent in her Volvo's rear door, it must have been interesting filling in the insurance form. At St Margaret S.E David Rackham is thatching Beck Barn, the last to do this were his father and Grandfather. Rumour has it that Judith has sacked her mower man, instead something resembling a motorised tortoise shoots out of his hutch, chops a blade of grass and retires. At St James the funeral of Rosemary Mason was held, sympathies to the family.

## **FROM THE TRACTOR CAB**

Spring and sunshine brings new life, with birds returning from Africa and further, even butterflies fly back from across the water. I was visited by a pair of swifts on 9th May, they came screaming across the yard and I just said 'have a good journey?'. There are Kingfishers nesting in the Beck, for the third year that I know of, around my bird table are Goldfinches, the smallest of the finch family and the most colourful, with the cock Pheasant in all his finery.



*Elisabeth*  
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From the tractor cab, continued...

As I go across the field the Skylarks fly up with their fluttering flight to lead you away while giving a lovely song. Rolling the field I saw eighteen red deer hinds who just laid on the brow watching me go up and down before ambling off. That master of camouflage the hare can blend into the background as can its young, more than once you have to take another look as it appears that a brown clod is moving, but instead it's a small ball of brown fur called a lever.

## **St MARGARET DIARY**

Friday 21st June	Countryside Evening, Beck Valley, 6-8pm
Sunday 23rd June	Classic Vehicle show, Beck Valley
Sat 13th July	Flower and Produce Show, St Margaret Village Hall
Sat 20th July	Village BBQ, on the Green, 6pm
Sun 25th August	Garden Party, Redhouse Farm
Sun 22nd September	Harvest Lunch, St Margaret S.E Village Hall
Fri 15th Nov	BINGO, Village hall
Sat 30th Nov	Christmas Tree festival, Church
Sun 1st Dec	Christmas Tree festival, Church
Sun 8th Dec	Christmas lunch

## **COUNTRYSIDE EVENING IP20 0PJ**



Beck valley St Margaret S.E come and enjoy, Robert Earls superb cuisine, the magic of Ben Loughrill unique tables and Antique Roadshow legend Robert Tilney, Sally's flowers, Waveney Bee Keepers.

Friday 21st June from 6-8pm. ENTRANCE AND PARKING FREE

## **CLASSIC VEHICLE SHOW IP20 0PJ**

Come and see tractors, cars and motorbikes from past eras, all in the countryside of the Beck Valley St Margaret South Elmham.

Bar, homemade cakes, BBQ and more

SUNDAY 23rd JUNE 10-4pm. Entrance £5, children free.



## **ST MARGARET S.E VILLAGE HALL**

Extract of Chairs report

Bit of a change in person, after many years of keeping meticulous accounts, Chris Sadler has retired his calculator and found a person to better spend his time with. Thank you. Graham Hammond has stepped up to the task although trying to sort the banks and others online is **not fast or easy**



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St Margeret S.E continued...

and still involved several visits to the bank in person. Quizzes, a race night, Coronation party, Village BBQ, Harvest lunch, Christmas lunch and new this year a jumble sale and table-top sale, all hall revenue raising. Then there are regular hall users the History group, Badminton, Dancers, Flower arranging workshops and new this year Bowls, thank you, as that's what keeps this hall going.

### **ST MARGARET S.E PARISH MEETING**

The meeting in the Village Hall on 8th April heard reports from the Group Parish Chair also the Village Hall chair and the Churchwarden.

### **ST. CROSS NEWS**

Spring has sprung!

At the time of writing... it's not raining!

Grass is growing and mowers are out. Wildlife is active and gardeners are getting busy... especially at Squire's Barn... see below!

**Welcome is extended to new residents at Hillside.**

### **OPEN GARDEN AT SQUIRE'S BARN, ST CROSS**

June 30th 10.30 - 4.00

Ann and Stephen Mulligan will again be opening their lovely garden to the public on 30th June as part of the National Garden Scheme.

Stretching over 3 acres the garden has been transformed by the creation of many herbaceous beds and the planting of a wide range of decorative trees that provide colour and interest throughout the year.

Squires Barn will be open from 10.30 till 4.00 with car parking available. A wonderful selection of home made cakes with hot and cold drinks will be on offer all day, with visitors being able to sit in one of the many seating areas throughout the garden.

During the middle part of the day visitors also will be entertained by the melodic sounds of the Creme Anglaise brass band who give their time freely in aid of charity. Artwork produced by local artists and plants will additionally be on sale.

This event can only take place because of the great generosity of villagers who support the event with their time, with Ann and Stephen very grateful for their help.





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St Cross continued...

If you have not previously attended the Open Garden please do so this year. Entry costs £5 per person with all the funds raised being shared between Marie Curie, Macmillan Cancer Support, Parkinson's UK and a number of other charities on a national basis.

## **HOMERSFIELD**

Well, Spring has arrived but no-one has told the weather yet! Bitterly cold and raining most of the time. Despite that the verges and woods have burst into life. Lush greenery everywhere and busy birds feeding their young. The horse chestnut trees are amazing. At the time of writing I haven't seen any swallows or swifts. Hopefully they're on their way. A pair of red kites are now frequently seen over the village.

We will be having our usual bricabrac stall for the Church at The Black Swans Grand Fete in aid of Nelsons Journey on 3rd August. If you have anything you would like to donate I can pick it up or you are welcome to leave it at 9 Glebe Cottages or in the Church. 01986788947 Ken Palmer, the author of The Book of Homersfield, Village in a Valley (published 2007), has kindly given The Parish Council a stock of this interesting and informative book. It is available (free) to any resident of Homersfield who would like one. Please contact Lucy Hammond by email - [lucyhammondpc@gmail.com](mailto:lucyhammondpc@gmail.com) or phoning 01986788600 to arrange to receive a copy.

Our Churchwarden for many years Jo Westgate has decided to retire. Although not living in the village for several years she carried on with her duties and will be sorely missed. We would like to thank Jo for her hard work and dedication. Enjoy your retirement Jo! Homersfield P.C.C.

## **HOMERSFIELD VILLAGE CHARITY**

Some people may already be aware that there is a small charity in Homersfield which is able to help provide some minor financial support for residents of the village. It may be able to assist with the cost of items such as food, energy etc or possibly books or school accessories for children.

## 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!

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Jenni Baker

## FLIXTON AND SOUTH ELMHAM ANNUAL FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW ST.MARGARET SOUTH ELMHAM VILLAGE HALL

**Saturday 13th July 2024**

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Homersfield continued....

If anyone should feel that either they or someone they know may be able to benefit from a grant from this charity please feel free to approach one of the Trustees - Lucy Hammond on 01986 788600; lucyhammond600@gmail.com or Tom Holdridge on 01986788169; tom-holdridge.th@gmail.com. All approaches will be treated in the strictest of confidence. *Tom Holdridge (Trustee)*

The village green is looking colourful and is satisfying lots of pollen seeking insects as Peter has mown paths to the phone box and left the flowering plants to be visited and feed hungry creatures after a cold spell of weather. Thank you to him.

There is a push for us all to mow less often in May and June and allow longer grass to help amphibians and others to travel unspotted around our gardens, other open spaces like churchyards and even road verges. Food security needs to be forefront with us all as climate impacts on farming to such a great extent. *Sarah*

Have you noticed how well cared for the Churchyard is at Homersfield? Do you ever wonder who is responsible for this? I have noticed no-one ever says 'thank you' to the two ladies who spend hours cutting, weeding and strimming i.e. Sally Remblance and Emma Nobbs. So let's say a huge "Thank You" for your care and time you give so generously. *Jean Lee*

## **FLIXTON**

### **DRAINAGE**

Touch wood, it seems that the drain cleaning work carried out in The Street has paid dividends. Despite quite a few heavy downpours, flooding outside The Buck has been minimal to almost non-existent. A vast difference after at least 10 years of the unofficial "ford" in the road. Next stop Abbey Road and the underground gully in Church Road.

I took another look in Abbey Road near the farmhouse and it may well be that there is a mix of problems. The moat being overgrown, but also its banks toward the roadside may have eroded, allowing excess water to overspill along the concrete track. We just need to find a landowner and then have a good look.

As for the dyke, there apparently is "something afoot" to get it into a reasonable state of affairs. Residents will have noticed the increased level of settled rainwater due to too much vegetation sitting in the streambed.

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# Church Services

Rev Leon Collyer 01986 781345

19/05/24	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 5.00pm	Ilk St John Homersfield
26/05/24	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 5.00pm	St James St Margaret SE
02/06/24	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 5.00pm	St Peter Ilk St Margaret
09/06/24	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 5.00pm	Flixton Rumbugh
16/06/24	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 5.00pm	Homersfield Ilk St John
23/06/24	Holy Communion	10.00am	St James
30/06/24	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 5.00pm	St Cross St Lawrence
07/07/24	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 5.00pm	St Michael Ilk St Margaret
14/07/24	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 5.00pm	Rumbugh Flixton
21/07/24	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 5.00pm	Ilk St John Homersfield
28/07/24	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 5.00pm	St James St Margaret SE

## **HARLESTON & DISTRICT U3A**

Harleston & District u3a - our monthly talk, Charlie and 'The Dig', on Wednesday 19th June at 2.00 pm in St John's Church, Harleston IP20 9AZ will be given by Charlie Haylock, the renowned speaker and voice coach. Charlie will give us an insight into the making of the Netflix film 'The Dig', based on the novel by John Preston about the Sutton Hoo burial ship. He'll also explain how Ralph Fiennes and other actors learnt their Suffolk accents!

Visitors welcome, admission £3.00 including refreshments. Further information about this and all Harleston & District u3a's activities is on our

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Contact Details inside front cover

Flixton continued...

So let's hope we see it cleared before this Autumn.

All we need now is the training promised for Community Self Help volunteers and then maybe we can be more involved with this sort of work.

### **LITTER PICK**

Lots of volunteers again, including new residents, for our April litter pick. Maybe it's a reflection on the economic downturn or just that drivers are more careful but there were far less motor body parts than normal lying in the undergrowth. There also seems to be less litter generally, which is a bonus.

### **SOUND BATH**

On the 9th May, at the village hall, there was the chance to enjoy "sound bathing" aimed at relaxing our stressed bodies and minds. It was nice to see the event well attended and a credit to Lin Smith for arranging the evening. It was definitely relaxing as I believe I heard some snoring at one stage.

### **ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOR**

It seems that the message may be at last getting through regarding dog fouling. Church Road recently seems to be a cleaner place for residents to walk. Let's hope so.

### **THE BUCK**

The Buck seems to be increasing trade during the week, a good sign and an indication that Summer has finally arrived. We are due another Village Meeting there on the 16th May, but this reminder probably won't be seen before the day. The aim is to have another one in September which might bring some village activities for the next Winter months.

One small beer festival has already been held, but I believe more are planned for this Summer, so watch the notice boards.

Any feedback or news contact Pete Madder-Smith 01986 896828.

### **FLIXTON 100 CLUB**

March 2024

1st.	Jo Beard	16
2nd.	Dawn Howard	78
3rd.	Justin Skinner	56

April 2024

1st.	Sandra Hunt	72
2nd.	Loraine Stewart	71
3rd.	Sally Songer	46



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## **ST JAMES CHURCH NEWS**

The churchyard continues to look lovely, with the regular input of volunteers taking care of it. At the moment, it is full of cowslips and with the improving weather is beginning to attract the bees and butterflies.

On the afternoon of 28th July, there will be a music performance in the church, with refreshments outside, weather permitting. Look out for more details on this nearer the time.

## **HALL AND VILLAGE NEWS**

The working party which was formed of volunteers to do practical work around the hall has already carried out some necessary tasks around the outside of the building. The storage shed, which was in need of refurbishment, is being tackled and, like most projects of this kind, needs a lot more TLC than first envisaged. We are very grateful to the intrepid volunteers!

If you still have not joined the Community WhatsApp, which has been set up to disseminate village news and help with practical issues, but would like to join in order to hear what is going on in the village or to ask for or offer help, please contact Ruth Jewson on 07765790214.

## **FUTURE EVENTS IN THE HALL**

The Hall AGM will be held on Wednesday 22nd May at 7pm. This is an opportunity to have your say on what is on offer in the hall, how it is run etc. Please come and join us, it is never a long evening and refreshments will be served.

## **SUMMER LUNCH**

This will be 4th August on the green behind the hall. At 12.20 for 1pm. There will be a lunch or BBQ with games for the children. Look out for details nearer the time.

If you would like to book the village hall for private events or sports sessions, please contact Ruth Jewson on the number above.

If you would like any more information on sports sessions, please contact Caroline on 01986 782545. As well as equipment for badminton, table tennis, curling and soft ball, we also have equipment available for the increasingly popular game of pickleball, which is fast being established in this country.

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## **ST PETER**

Popular fun boules tournament, It will take place on Sunday 21st July at Ilketshall St Andrew village hall. It is open to all ages and all abilities are welcome. You don't even need to know the rules! All you need is a team of four to play. The event lasts all day with games played in leagues in the morning, in the afternoon teams play a knockout competition. The best teams play for the cup and the not so lucky teams play for the plate, so you will all get plenty of games. There will be food and drink available and the village hall bar will be open.

Details have already been sent out to those who have entered or shown interest before, so don't delay if you are thinking of entering, as entries are capped and there are no entries allowed on the day. This really is a fun day out so why not give it a try. Entry forms are available from [tim.maycock@btinternet.com](mailto:tim.maycock@btinternet.com) or 01986 782296

## **ALL SAINTS, ST NICHOLAS, SOUTH ELMHAM and RUMBURGH**

There will a local history day on Saturday 8th June 2024 at Rumburgh and St. Michael Village Hall – 10.0am to 4.00pm.

This event is being organised by Sonia Collins, the local history recorder for All Saints and St. Nicholas South Elmham and Rumburgh.

Sonia is asking for contributions of historical artefacts such as photos, press cuttings, maps, sales particulars, posters and flyers for events as well as newsletters, church records, family, school, work and farming history in fact anything that you feel captures the past history of this wonderful part of Suffolk. Or if you have memories that you would like to share – you can submit typed up memories in advance of the day to Sonia via email at [sonia.history.rec@gmail.com](mailto:sonia.history.rec@gmail.com). These will be included in a memory book a truly great way to remember the life of villages past and present.

The history day will cover All Saints and St. Nicholas South Elmham, Rumburgh and surrounding villages. So please get into your attics and store cupboards and see what you can find. A historical and photographic record of the day will be arranged. There will be speakers, dedicated displays to pubs, churches and organisations. Tea and Coffee refreshments, entrance £1.00. Best wishes

Sonia Kay Collins Suffolk Local History Recorder for All Saints and St. Nicholas South Elmham and Rumburgh.

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## HCS

Our Summer Term began on 8 April, and we're now on track for our Summer Concert on Saturday 29th June at 7.30 pm in St John's Church, Harleston IP20 9AZ. Come and join us!

We're singing Saint-Saëns Requiem and Dvořák Mass in D Major.

Tickets £15.00 (to include a glass of wine or a soft drink, accompanied children go free) available from choir members, on the door on the night and from Harleston Information Plus. We've been singing since 2000, we're a friendly community choir, there are no auditions and music is provided free.

Practices are on Monday evenings 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm, in The London Road Church, Harleston IP20 9BH, parking is available in The Original Factory Shop (TOFS) almost opposite the church. Our Summer Term ends with the concert on 29th June and we'll be returning for more singing on Monday 2nd September. Come and join us, especially if you're potential tenor, alto or bass.

## FLIXTON AND SOUTH ELMHAM FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW

It is that time of year again, when village shows are organised and judges booked. Our show this year will be held on Saturday 13th July, in St.Margaret South Elmham Village Hall.

There are classes to interest everyone, whether you are an expert onion grower, have a wonderful bed of roses, can put together an acceptable flower arrangement or cook a delicious Victoria sponge, there is just the class for you. If you like to while away the hours sewing or like taking photographs then there is also something up your street. Get outside with your camera, the subjects this year are

CLOUDS and WILDFLOWERS.

ALL CLASSES ARE 50P TO ENTER.

For children up to 13 years old there are also some good classes featuring the Olympic Games. Free entry and prize money to be won. Do come and join us in what is one of the areas oldest shows. We struggle on with a very small committee, but as long as we get the entries we are happy. Entries to be in to Jenni Baker by 10th July. 01986782377

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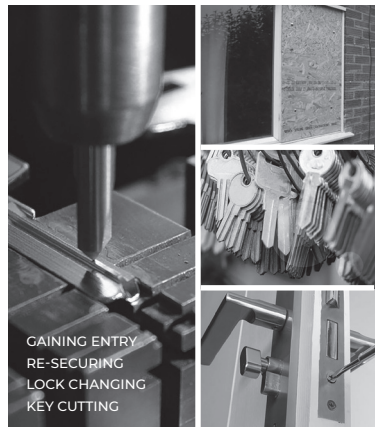
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## **WALKING THE THREE SAINTS**

Walking the Three Saints' is a new footpath map leaflet based on the various Definitive Maps which cover the area of the Three Saints Parish Council. This leaflet, with its map and illustrations, has been created by volunteers. The public footpath walks have been checked but may be subject to change over time. A copy of the map can be also downloaded from TSPC's website: <http://threesaintssouthelmham.onesuffolk.net/local-news-and-info/walking-the-three-saints-map-leaflet/>

You can also collect printed copies from the Visitor Information Points in Bungay (the library and The Art Trading Company) and in Halesworth (the library and the Angel).

## **SOUTH ELMHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY GROUP**

Thursday 30th May - "Walpole Old Chapel" By Miriam Stead

Thursday 27th June - "AGM" at 7pm followed by (at approx. 7.30pm)

"House Detectives" by Stephen Poulter

Thursday 25th July - "Framlingham Castle" by Barbara McElroy

All meetings are held at St Margaret South Elmham Village Hall, IP20 0PJ on the last Thursday of each month at 7.30pm.

Entrance £3 on the door or £1 for members. Refreshments included.

## **GETTING OLD**

All our youngsters should really be told,  
That it's really no fun getting old.  
Make the most of your youth and middle age,  
Suddenly in The Book of Life you're approaching the last page,  
Joints begin to creak and groan,  
But you carry on, trying not to moan.  
Every job in the garden takes quite a bit longer  
And you're thinking 'I wish I was younger, fitter and stronger.  
You get to a point when things have to be written down,  
Especially lists, when you're going into town,  
Your mind goes blank when you get in the Co-op  
And your carefully written list is at home on the worktop!  
You're lucky if you remember one thing on the list,  
But your basket is full of things you couldn't resist.  
Getting old does have one enormous perk,  
You don't have to get up and go to work!

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