



**BERNARD DUFFIELD RECEIVING HIS TANKARD
FROM THE VILLAGE HALL CHAIR**

SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

ISSUE No. 249

AUHUST - SEPTEMBER 2025

ST JAMES

HOMERSFIELD

FLIXTON

MUSIC CONCERT 27TH JULY

MOTHS AND A CUPPA 13TH SEPT

SOLAR MEETING 12TH SEPT

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SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

August - September '25

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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 SEPTEMBER 7TH

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

EDITORIAL

The weather has always been a 'British' thing, but latterly, it's being spoken of slightly differently. Previously it was the fickle nature of it, having all four seasons in one day was not unusual, now it's often more violent and droughts more prolonged. Plans apparently are being proposed by Essex and Suffolk Water company to build a reservoir in the area, as even without the drought, there is a shortage of water. The last month or two it's been very settled with very high temperatures, making everywhere tinder dry. Be careful don't light fires, leave rubbish and be careful. FIRE KILLS.

GPC www.flixton.one.net

The GPC met at Flixton Village Hall for its AGM. Cllr Phillip Kidner was elected as Chair, with Cllrs Ken Warne and John Sanderson as vice chairs. The chair signed the Declaration of Office.

GPC, continued....

The asset register was brought up to date with the addition of hand tools for the Flixton Self Help Group, as were the Financial RISK Assessment. There is at yet very little apart from size, location and output known of the proposed Flixton Solar Farm, as no plans have been submitted. Inquiries to the PA concerning traffic movements company have so far not revealed anything new. Next Meeting 7th July at ST Margaret S.E.

MOLE

Pheew, it's hot and dry which doesn't help when trying to dig. Congratulations to Jenni and David Baker on celebrating their 49th wedding anniversary and also to Jenni and the Hill family from St Cross for completing the PINK ladies Tractor Run for BREAST CANCER. Odd it's been hot and dry for weeks then as it rains, when they are driving along, their pink ponchos kept them dry, except the water ran and collected on the seats, making it a bit uncomfortable on their nether regions, happily they all dried out. Brilliant effort over 200 tractors of all varieties and ages, and ladies from all walks of life with a common goal to defeat Breast Cancer. Bernard Duffield was presented with an inscribed tankard in recognition of his work for the St Margaret S.E Village Hall (see cover). The St Margaret hand Bell Ringers had a brief practice, with Pam Harris trying her skills under Gail Sprakes' watchful eye. Welcome to Adam and Helen to St Cross. At Homersfield apparently their time is 10 minutes behind St Margaret, according to an out of breath visitor to St Margaret S.E church. Congratulations to Steve and Christina of St Cross on the birth of baby Gracie-Rose. Thanks to Tom and Paul for repairing the roof and flint wall on St Margaret S.E church vestry, one advantage of the dry time allowed these repairs to be done.

FROM THE TRACTOR CAB

Harvest has started, early, not much has not really grown in these dry times, the grass has gone brown and several of the trees and bushes, may not survive another season. The up-side is many of the animals and birds have had a better breeding season. There seem to be a lot of butterflies of various colours and sizes. The Beck is dry, meaning the Kingfisher, Heron and other water birds have probably moved to ponds or the Waveney River. Swallows and Swifts appear here at dawn and dusk, patrolling the skies hunting insects, during the day they are generally up very high.



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St MARGARET S.E VILLAGE HALL

The hall is undergoing a refurbishment following the successful grant application from UKSPF Rural Business & Community Hub fund run by East Suffolk council.

St MARGARET DIARY

Fri 18th July	HAND BELL RINGING DEMONSTRATION Village Hall 7-8.30pm
Fri 19th July	VILLAGE BBQ on the ALFIE DAY GREEN St Margaret South Elmham bar, games. 6-10pm,
Sun 31st August	Afternoon tea, Redhouse Farm st Margaret S.E, 2-4pm
Sunday 12th Sept	Harvest Lunch, Village hall , 12 for 12.30pm. BRING YOUR OWN DRINK. TICKETS £12 Adult, £13 Child and under £6
Sat 4th Oct	GRAND OPENING OF REFURBISHED VILLAGE
HALL	
Sun 4th Dec	CHRISTMAS LUNCH 12-12.30
Sat 20th Dec	CHRISTMAS PARTY

FLIXTON AND SOUTH ELMHAM ANNUAL FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW

What a display, flower arrangements that could grace Chelsea, cakes, sponges, sausage rolls, millionaire shortbread and more. Vegetables, may have been a bit sparse, as were some flower classes, but this is down to the dry hot conditions. If this is not good enough the strawberry and cream teas were excellent. This event does not just happen, it's been going since 1934, as the trophies can tell. Jenni Baker is the force that keeps it running, many hours are spent sorting out entries, cajoling judges and competitors, and then on the evening before measuring with husband Dave, the spaces for the exhibits. They have also celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary. Thank you

RIDE AND STRIDE SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 13TH 2025, BETWEEN 9AM AND 5PM

Would you like to have fun in the Autumn sunshine* and support our beautiful St Margaret South Elmham Church and other historic churches in Suffolk? Come and join the annual Ride and Stride on 13th September. The idea is to be sponsored (or give a donation) to cycle, walk, run or drive to visit as many local churches as you can on the day. You'll be welcomed, encouraged and offered refreshments on your way round.



J. FELTON

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This year churches are encouraged to display a 'Fascinating Fact' about their church to provide even more interest for visitors.

Sponsorship forms from Sue Glazer, Old Post Office, St Margaret South Elmham, 07771 960763 or from a Church on the day. Nominate St Margaret South Elmham Church to ensure it receives half your sponsorship money. The other half goes to the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust to support all Suffolk churches. See you there.

*sunshine is anticipated but unfortunately not guaranteed!

COUNTRYSIDE EVENING

The lure of an evening in the Beck valley with food from Robert Earl's creative fingers, the colourful flowers of Sally Chapman and the rows of rare and varied tractors drew many to the bowl in the Beck valley. Sue and Richard put the dogs through their paces, while Robert Tilney shot a few cartridges in the air, surprising several people including our County Councillor. Thank you for coming.

P.T.K

CLASSIC VEHICLE EVENT

Thank you to all the exhibitors, stall holders, Robert for the BBQ, Micky the bar, Simon and Harry for the Marquee.

Also to all the visitors who braved the heat and supported the event.

It was a lovely day which we hope everyone enjoyed, the money raised (£1169.01 minus expenses of approx £199) is going towards the repairs to the vestry roof, gutters etc., there is always remedial work needed.

Once again thank you, hopefully we will see again next year.

St MARGARET S.E. VILLAGE HALL

The hall is undergoing a restoration with solar panels, batteries, refurbished floor, updated kitchen and a cinematic screen and player. Thanks to a grant administered by East Suffolk council. The hall is still available for events and Booking

ST PETER

As I write this, June is drawing to a close, we are past the longest day and recent weather has been more variable than it was during April and May. However, it is warm and muggy and the new vegetable plot is already producing more food than we can reasonably eat ourselves. It is at this time of year that our dietary variety narrows, as we struggle to consume courgettes



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'Walnut Cottage - Suffolk'

St Peter continued...

before they reach the size of submarines and the sun is dimmed behind a forest of climbing beans. We had a moment of excitement on June 6th, as four Swifts were spotted circling above our house. This has been a rare sight around us, with Swallows dominating the patch. Disappointingly, our new Swift boxes remain empty and the Swifts have moved on. Maybe next year we'll try a new estate agent. Your correspondent was surprised by a string of alerts on our security cameras at 5.30am recently. Expecting to see the usual rabbit or two, I opened the app to find a herd of 15-20 cows wandering down our drive. Imagine our delight! Unfortunately, we weren't home to welcome them in person, so, after ten minutes or so, their Spiritual Leader took them back to whence they came, leaving only a few 'frisbees' to mark their brief presence. Pamela's annual bric-a-brac sale in aid of the church was a resounding success, yielding a record £1,220. Many thanks to all who contributed. We hope that the plants you bought are thriving and have not succumbed to the plague of aphids which recently bore down on us. Winner of May's 49 Club prize was Gail Sprake and in June was the Church. It seems the Church is having quite the run of luck. If you'd like to even the odds, please get in touch with Pamela to subscribe to some new numbers. Remember, you can't win if you ain't in. The brewery celebrated four gold medals in the European Beer Challenge this year, for its Cream Stout (which won Double Gold), Golden Ale (makes sense), Old Style Porter and Plum Porter. If only the Olympics had brewing on its list of sports. The brewery continues to expand and hire local people with a new starter in the Finance Team in June. The Commercial Operations Team has a new team member joining soon, and they have another new hire joining the Production Planning Team in a few weeks. They are also recruiting Group Head of Operations Finance to be located at St Peters. If you fancy applying, you'll find the listing on indeed.com. The brewery shop will soon be selling beer brands from across the group, so the choice available will expand considerably. Finally, a reminder that they offer a 10% discount in their brewery shop for anyone showing a copy of the South Elmham Community News (this newsletter) when making a purchase. Cheers!

Monthly Flower Arranging Workshops

First Tuesday of the month
10.00am until 3.00pm

St Margaret South Elmham
Village Hall

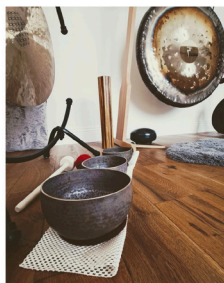
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FLIXTON

THE STREET, THE LAST STRAW.

For a few weeks in May traffic through The Street was very restricted due to repair work being carried out on the main road drains. It was a period of relative peace but also intermittent disruption as the traffic was reduced, but almost every evening some drivers obviously felt that kicking barriers aside or moving them off the carriageway was perfectly ok. But the disruption and costly repairs would never have been necessary if Suffolk County Council had carried out planned, regular cleaning. Since we've lived in Flixton (over 30 years), the drains had never been properly maintained and had spent much of that time buried completely in grass verge. I'd often dug the drain lids out so they would be visible to Suffolk County Council representatives when they visited but to no avail. Following the bad flooding a couple of winters back, I managed to get SCC to focus their attention on this part of the village. The result is that The Street now has a repaired functioning road drain system able to deal with heavy rain. Yet without some ongoing "policing" by SCC the problem will resurface and may well still exist at the junction of Church Road and The Street. In the past, trailers loaded with straw rarely travelled more than a couple of miles and usually at a pretty slow pace, so loose straw wasn't an issue. Now there are often double loads drawn by lorries or much larger tractors at considerably higher speeds. In addition, fuel for the nearby biomass power station is transported in a similar manner on numerous overloaded bulk trailers. Almost invariably, no loads are covered, leaving residents and our road drains to suffer the consequence of this poor practice. Just this week, as volunteers carried out pathway cleaning, the result of this antisocial behaviour was once again clearly visible with straw everywhere including in the road drains. Local farmers and contractors working for them need to consider their neighbours. And the local authorities need to apply their legal powers if necessary to deal with this relatively new problem. The cause is poor load management. The effect is unnecessary road flooding, unnecessary public purse expenditure to repair drains and scruffy streets.

THANK YOU 2 SISTERS

The village hall committee are extremely grateful to the Two Sisters management for their generosity and help in what they have given the village hall. They have resurfaced a large part of the car park, repaired and repainted the two sheds and repaired large sections of the internal walls in the hall

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Church Services

Rev Leon Collyer 01986 781345

20/07/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Peter
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	Homersfield
27/07/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	Flixton
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	Rumburgh
03/08/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	St James
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	St John
10/08/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	Ilk St Margaret
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	St Margaret S.E
17/08/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	Homersfield
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	St Peter
24/08/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	Rumburgh
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	Flixton
31/08/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Lawrence
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	St Cross
07/09/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Michael
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	St John
14/09/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Margaret S.E
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	Ilk St Margaret
03/08/25	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Peter
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	Homersfield

Flixton 100 club

May '25

1st Loraine & Doug Stewart 90
2nd Robert Clint 37
3rd Harry Softley 7

June '25

1st Teddy Ely 13
2nd Tim Summerson 34
3rd David Pairpoint 64

HEAT

Goodness me, it's been so hot!
We've had some rain, but not alot,
The Saints have been busy with lots of "do"s
Car shows, fetes and barbecues,
It was really nice by the Beck under a tree,
Eating cake and drinking tea.
The Flower and Produce show is almost here,
I've entered classes that I didn't last year,
Cakes and jams and all that stuff,
But, not being a 'natural' cook, it's been very tough,
Jam that's better than superglue,
Cakes, even the dog said "no thank you"
Fingers crossed, I may win a prize,
Anything at all would be a surprise
SALLY REMBLANCE

(Sally won First prize with her Raspberry jam
at the Flower and Produce show)

Flixton continued...

which was carried out by members of their maintenance staff. They have offered further help if needed in the future.

Thanks to John Gibson, Joshua Grey, Darren and others.

SOLAR FARM MEETING ... a date for your diary

There will be an extraordinary meeting concerning the proposed solar farm on 12th September at 7pm in the Village Hall. The latest updates and the impact on the village will be discussed.

The meeting will be followed by a social get together, so please bring your preferred drink and nibbles. Let's try and have a good turnout.

Local Footway Maintenance

We've had a couple of these "clean up" days since the year planner was delivered to each house in the village and they've achieved a great deal. So, well done to everyone who has helped improve our village. Sometimes it is difficult for people who would like to volunteer, if the clean up clashes with work. That said, all volunteers are welcome. So if you want to help but fitting in with the schedule is difficult, contact me and maybe we can still enable you to help out.

Contact Pete Madder-Smith on 896828.

St CROSS

As summer marches on and school holidays start, some in our community have been busy raising money for charity. The two examples of fundraising reported below say something very positive about our community. Well done!

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL OPEN GARDEN

At Squires Barn Ann and Stephen Mulligan once again opened their country garden in aid of charity. On Sunday 29th June they, and a number of supportive and hard-working neighbours, welcomed some 120 visitors on a cloudy but warm and dry day to look round the 3 acre garden that has been developed over the past decade. Largely comprising island beds, the whole area is planted with a wide range of shrubs, trees, bulbs and herbaceous plants. In some areas the grass has been allowed to grow to show off the coloured seed heads, with wide paths mown through them to provide a more immersive experience and generally attract wildlife. A silver band played a range of music during the middle

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St Cross continued...

part of the day, much to the delight of the visiting public, who were also able to sample a mouth-watering variety of cakes with their drinks. The ladies in the tearoom even provided a take away service! In conjunction with other gardens which open under the aegis of the National Garden Scheme across England and Wales, the garden raises funds for a number of charities such as Marie Curie, Macmillan, Parkinson's and Horatio's Garden. Last year over £3.5 million was raised, with Squires Barn raising over £1,200 this year again. If you have not yet been to the garden look out for the date next year. Ann and Stephen would like to thank all those who helped organise the event, without whose assistance the event could not succeed.

ANOTHER FANTASTIC PINK LADIES TRACTOR TURNOUT

At The Old Post Office, a number of tractors decked out in the required pink, set off for this wonderful fundraiser on Sunday 6th July driven by the ladies. David and Ann Hill work hard alongside their family to turn out such a great 'stable' of tractors. Along the route people turned out to cheer them on and despite a period of rain, neither the lady drivers nor the cheering public were put off. This event raises an incredible amount of money for breast cancer research.

ST JAMES

CHURCH NEWS:

Just a reminder for the Music concert that is happening in the church on Sunday 27th July at 2.30pm. Tickets available from Jane on 01986 782413 or on the door. There will be food and drinks available to buy including wine, so please come and enjoy a lovely afternoon in the church, set as a garden to relax in - and then the refreshments outside. There will also be a select raffle too. A note for your diaries - the St. James Carol Service will be at 6pm on Sunday 21st December. Weather permitting, we will walk from the hall singing carols, and then after the service sweet and savoury refreshments with hot drinks and mulled wine will be available. All are welcome to join this start to Christmas. (My apologies for mentioning Christmas in July!!)

HALL AND VILLAGE

The Village Hall AGM was well attended and felt to be a useful evening for

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St James continued....

reporting progress on refurbishment plans for the hall and its environs, as well as plans for future events. The Village Summer Lunch attracted over fifty people. It was a pleasant, convivial gathering with no rain! Thanks to all who contributed in every way, from the practicalities of tent erection to preparing the lovely food. Not forgetting the traditional games like the egg and spoon race, helping to offset the calories.

JANE SENDS THIS MESSAGE: THE LABURNUMS

I would like to thank everyone who helped to make my May open garden another success. Despite many other things being on the same day, we had a great day with over 200 through the gate. It's such a pleasure to meet so many old and new friends and to share the garden with them. The band performed at their usual high standard and gave several encores before they were allowed to visit the BBQ.

£2,200 was raised for the various local charities events such as these are only possible because of all the friends and neighbours who willing give of their time on and around the day. I am indebted to you all.

FUTURE EVENTS

SUNDAY 27th JULY. 2.30 pm.

The village welcomes back the "Consort of 1" following her popular concert of last summer in our church, Lizzie Gutteridge will return with her extraordinary concert of mediaeval and renaissance instruments. If you missed it, this is a chance to marvel at Lizzie's mastery of the music in the perfect setting – a mediaeval church. A renowned performer, Lizzie's usual stage is in venues such as Hampton Court and the Tower of London.

Tickets £10. Start at 2.30pm. Bring a little cash for raffle, coffee and cake or enjoy a glass of wine. Book on St James WhatsApp, call Jane on 01986782413, or tickets on the door.

SATURDAY, 16th AUGUST. 10am – 4pm

Messiah Music Sing Along. This is an open invitation to take part in a rendition of Handel's Messiah. All welcome. £10 on the door. No booking needed but contact Caroline for details, 01986782545

SUNDAY 31st AUGUST. 3pm – 5pm

Village Orchard Picnic. A new, impromptu event for us. An invitation to gather in the Village Orchard, bringing your own picnic but we will supply



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St James continued....

appropriate summer drinks, ciders, beers, juices etc.

Well behaved dogs on leads welcome (or a Teddy...) No booking required. Rain permitting!

MONDAY, 8TH SEPTEMBER 10.30am – 12.00pm

Musical Lifelines: Music for all. A new session to be repeated on the second Monday of each month for people in later life who might enjoy a music workshop. There is no charge and there will be refreshments.

If you enjoy listening to music with some company, come along and join us.

SATURDAY, 13th SEPTEMBER. 7.30 pm.

The popular Soul Alliance band returns to the Hall for an evening of great music. Come along to dance to the music or just listen, either way, a great way to spend an evening in autumn. Tickets £7.50. Refreshments available but BYO alcohol. Book on Village WhatsApp or with Dave on 01986 783959 or 07778204113. Last minute decision, pay at the door.

A little further ahead:

SATURDAY, 18th OCTOBER. 7pm.

QUIZ NIGHT in the Hall. Put this in your diaries, details in next edition. Always popular with hot meal and raffle.

SATURDAY, 15th NOVEMBER

PHOTO COMPETITION to be judged by you in the hall. Start taking those photos now. There will also be an arts and craft exhibition in the hall.

DECEMBER 14th Christmas LUNCH

DECEMBER 21st Carol Service in the church.

HOMERSFIELD

The weather has been kind to us for events at the Church. A pet service was held in the churchyard on 18th May. Many well behaved dogs attended, one not so well behaved...mine! Also some mealworms were blessed. Refreshments were enjoyed by all and the collection was donated to Guide Dogs. The church was packed on 15th June for the baptism of our village baby Amelia McDaniel, who behaved impeccably. Don't forget the The Black Swan fete on 2nd August, I'm still collecting bric-a-brac for our Church stall. There is a wood tidy on 6th September 10-12,

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Homersfield continued...

clearing paths so loppers, shears and secateurs would be useful.

Saturday 13th September - Moths and a Cuppa at the Church. The moth trap will be opened at 10 a.m. Come and learn about moths with a hot drink afterwards. Suggested donation £5 to help with the Church insurance. 20 people maximum.

To book your space email lucyhammondpc@gmail.com.

Parish Council meeting on 6th September at the Black Swan. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting. There is a vacancy on Homersfield Parish Council. If you would like to make a difference to your community and want to know more about what is involved, then please get in touch by emailing clerk@homersfield-pc.gov.uk.

Summer frolics!

HCS

It's nearly the end of summer, but for those who missed our July news, there's still an opportunity to join our Come & Sing Workshop (selections from Part 1 of Handel's Messiah, plus the Hallelujah Chorus) on Saturday 16th August 2025, 10.00 am – 4.30 pm, in St James Village Hall IP19 0HP, open to all. Tickets £10.00, soup and roll for lunch £5.00. More information and to book please email amanda.fletcher111@gmail.com

Our Autumn Term begins on Monday 1 September, 7.00 pm for a 7.30 start. We'll begin rehearsing for our Christmas Concert on Saturday 6 December, in St John's Church, Harleston. Practices are on a Monday night from 7.30 – 9.30 pm, in The London Road Church at Harleston, IP20 9BH. Parking is available in the The Original Factory Shop (TOFS) car park opposite.

We're a friendly community choir and we welcome everyone, and although it's an advantage to be able to read music, it's not essential. There are no auditions and music is provided free. If you have difficulty getting to practices, we're sometimes able to arrange lifts with choir members from your area. Further information about HCS can be found on our website www.harlestonchoralsoc.org.uk and from our Joint Chairs - caroline@rodbourne.org.uk and Jo Curry jo.curry@sky.com

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Saturday, Sunday 19th, 20th July ----- NASAM Meccano Exhibition

Saturday 26th July ----- Custom Hot Rods

Saturday 9th August ---- Family Fun Day

Saturday 30th ---- Veterans Day

Sunday 14th September ---- ROC & Battle of Britain Day

Some events will have flypasts depending on weather and serviceability

Private viewings can be arranged through our manager

Please see our website for full details

Community Hub

Thanks to a generous grant from Suffolk Council, we're improving your Village Hall to host more events and welcome new people from across our community.

Grand Opening Saturday Oct 4th

Everyone welcome to see the new features including wi-fi, big screen & projector, kitchen refit, floor restoration, solar panels & painting.

Available to hire now

Please spread the word - the Hall is a great place for events, birthday parties, meetings, small businesses, and more.



Information, booking and contact details:

stmargaretsvillagehall.co.uk

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