



MYSTERIOUS DRILLING IN ST PETER'S, OIL?

SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

ISSUE No. 165

APRIL - MAY 2026

ST PETER

MYSTERIOUS DRILLING

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EASTER TRAIL

FLIXTON

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SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

April - May 2026

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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

EDITORIAL

Potholes are everywhere, the best thing to do is report them. Anything else connected with roads, go to Suffolk County Council, Highways and the system will allow you to pinpoint on a map as well as give its location, submit and you should then receive an acknowledgment. Don't just put a stick in it. If Highways don't know about it, they can't fix it. HAPPY EASTER.

GPC

The Grouped Parish Council of Flixton, St Cross & St Margaret South Elmham at St Margaret S.E Village Hall on Jan12th. Amongst items discussed were the renewal of pads for the St Cross and St Margaret Defibrillators. These must be renewed after a time whether they are used or not. County Cllr Judy Cloke told the meeting that the Council elections were back on, after the Government Minister made his decision, and she would not be standing.

GPC

Next Meeting Barn at South Elmham Hall 10th March 7.30pm

MOLE

Well it's been wet, but we are in one of the drier parts of the country, some have had rain for 50 days. Down at Homersfield the smoke was pouring out of Sally's chimney, this necessitated a phone call to the Fire Brigade who quickly turned up blue lights flashing, hoses out and soon extinguished the smouldering embers, Jackdaws dropping sticks in the top of the chimney are thought to have contributed to this drama. Sally even found a fireman in the attic! Line dancing continues at St Margarets, to the amusement of those taking part, especially when the music is speeded up, it's a job to stop your legs getting in a knot. If you have been down the St Margaret S.E to Flixton road and have seen dirt and mud flying up from the ditch, do not be alarmed it's Peter (Foreman) Copeman keeping the water flowing, he has been gnawing away at a tree stump that has fallen in water also demonstrating what a new hip can do, 'thanks'. The first Film night showing the much-acclaimed Downton Abbey the Finale, was a great success, nearly 30 people turned up to sit in comfortable seats and watch on the big screen. Next one will be later in the year. A similar turnout came to the Horse Racing, much enjoyed. At the Bingo a record crowd attended for eyes down, one participant went home £50 better off. The St Margaret S.E Hand Bell Ringers are busy practicing for the Easter Service under the watchful eye of Gail Sprake.

FROM THE TRACTOR CAB

The mild weather is bringing the bushes and plants into bud, it's a bit unusual to have a high pollen count this early in the year, this is caused by mainly trees such as willow and poplar as they come into flower called catkins. The bees make good use of this early food. When the sun is out walking across the field suddenly a little bird flies up twittering as they climb, it's a skylark, singing with the joys of spring. Some birds are paired up some are thinking about it. The cock pheasant has got his finery on brilliant colours, ears erect. The hares are boxing, a sure sign of Spring and warmer times. The snowdrops are over, but the primroses and daffodils are giving a splash of colour.

Elisabeth



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VILLAGE ANNUAL MEETINGS all at 7.30pm

St Margarets S.E. Monday 13th APRIL in the hall

St Cross Tuesday 14th April at the Barn

Flixton Tuesday 28th April in the Hall

ALL WELCOME To these meetings.

COURSING A dead muntjac deer was discovered with its throat ripped out and other injuries. Likely caused by coursers with dogs, if you notice any of this criminal behaviour phone 999

ST MARGARET DIARY at Village Hall unless stated otherwise

Fri 3rd April GOOD FRIDAY EASTER TRAIL 11am -2pm

Sun 12th April Breakfast 10:00 – 12:00 ALL WELCOME

Mon 13th April ST MARGARET S.E VILLAGE AGM 7.30pm

Fri 17th April BOWLS 7.30pm

Mon 20th April St MARGARET S.E VILLAGE HALL AGM 7.30pm

Sat 25th April Jumble Sales/café 10:00 – 12:00 ALL WELCOME

Wed 29th April Benefice AGM 7.30pm

Sat 9th May Quiz for HOMERSFIELD CHURCH 7.30pm £8

Refreshments, Bring Your own Drink

Sat 20th May Auction 11:30 –

Fri 3rd June COUNTRYSIDE EVENING BECK VALLEY 6-8pm

Sat 4th June CLASSIC VEHICLE EVENT 11-4 pm.

BECK VALLEY BAR, Refreshments, Stalls and

more. To enter vehicles Ring Rodney, 01986782409

Sat 11th June Flower Show and Produce Show

Sat 18th June Village BBQ, 18:00, On the GREEN

Sun 6th June GARDEN PARTY at RED HOUSE FARM

26&27 November ALL THINGS FESTIVE at the CHURCH

Sun 13th December Christmas lunch 12.00 for 12.30

AUCTION

Auction - 60/40 anybody can enter pretty much anything at the auction.

No animals!! Books, records, furniture toys, bikes, tools, CDs etc.

ENTRIES FROM 10am, must be in before 10.30 AM! 07974126902

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SMSE Village Easter Trail!

Join us Good Friday for our Easter Trail 11-3pm (last start on trail 2pm) —a fun countryside walk from the village with quiz questions to solve along the way! When you return, your correct answers will be entered into our prize draw to win an Easter Egg. Name the Easter Bunny, “Guess the Weight of the Cake” and many more games. Tea, coffee, cakes and savouries will be available in the Village Hall, so come along, enjoy the wonders of spring by walking the trail, and spend a relaxed fun start to Easter Weekend. (Please bring cash - no card payment available sorry!)

JUMBLE SALE– Jannine has volunteered to allow people to drop stuff off for the sale to hers and she will store it at 1 Rookery Cottages St Margaret S.E

HORSE RACING

A new event using our new screen and projector. Thank you to all those who ran the ‘Tote’, provided catering and the advisers from Mutford for their advice and support.

ST CROSS

Despite the dull weather (at the time of writing), spring must be on it’s way as chiff chaffs have been heard singing. A sure sign....we hope!

WELCOME

A warm welcome is extended to Rob and Victoria at The Cottage. They are new to the area and we hope they will settle in and enjoy our village and lovely surroundings.

Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 14th April 7.30pm
The Barn, South Elmham Hall

Please see village noticeboards nearer to the date for the agenda. Everyone is welcome. If you are unable to attend but have an issue you would like to have considered, please contact one of your Parish Councillors: John Sanderson, Ian Noakes, Libby French Mullen

FLIXTON

LINDA PLUMB

Linda sadly passed away on New Year’s Day. A member of our community who has probably lived here almost the longest. Linda and husband Peter moved into the village in 1974, when St Felix Rise was a “new build”.



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'Walnut Cottage - Suffolk'

Flixton continued...

They have been a lifelong couple, first meeting at Wortwell Youth Club in their teens. Married for 53 years and both working in the locality for much of that time, Peter mainly on the land and Linda for Pye Electronics at Harleston then at the Mushroom Farm where she was called “Tigger” because of her exuberant nature, Linda and Peter enjoyed spending their time in the countryside walking and also gardening in their spare time. They also loved spending time with family, friends and each other. They have two daughters, Julie and Christina and it was through Julie’s attendance at Flixton School with Sally Warne that Linda and Sue Warne formed a warm friendship which has endured. Linda won a difficult health battle over 17 years ago but suffered a life changing illness around 2019, leaving her in need of constant care.

During the last years of her life Peter has been her constant support and her carer, helped by family, friends and an excellent care team. I know, through comments from other residents that Linda will be sadly missed but fondly remembered. Now a personal note from Sue Warne... Linda was such a good friend for so many years. Always there if a chat was needed. We helped each other, having laughs and lots of happy memories ... Love from Sue Warne.

ROAD DRAINS AND CULVERTS

The current spate of traffic controls are an indication that work is being done to repair the damage done by a long, wet winter and HGVs. Not much sign of the Environment Agency clearing the beck, so let’s hope for a dry spell.

TERRY HUNT

After more than 10 weeks in hospital, Terry returned home during the last week in February. He still has a long journey of recovery ahead of him but I’m certain that being at home has given him a real boost. Sandra will also be pleased that life is just beginning to get back to normal. Terry and Sandra have asked that I record their thanks for all the messages of support.

100 CLUB

There had been some operational difficulties related to subscriptions to the 100 Club but these have been resolved. There may also be a few delays in collection of cash subscriptions. Nevertheless, Sandra intends to do both the January and February draws in the near future.

HOMERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2026

All meetings are held in The Black Swan, Homersfield

- Tuesday 20th January 2026 at 6.00 pm
- Tuesday 17th March 2026 at 6.00 pm
- Tuesday 26th May 2026 at 6.00 pm

Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Parish Council Meeting

- Tuesday 21st July 2026 at 6.00 pm
- Tuesday 15th September 2026 at 6.00 pm
- Tuesday 17th November 2026 at 6.00 pm

~ Parishioners are Welcome to attend all Meetings ~

The agenda is displayed on the village noticeboard and published on HPC's website three days before the meeting. Planning meetings and additional meetings may be arranged as needed.

For further details contact the Clerk:
email: clerk@homersfield-pc.gov.uk or tel: 07774 734411
website: <https://homersfield-pc.gov.uk>



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Flixton continued...

VILLAGE SUPPORT

You should find a new, updated year planner covering dates or “windows” for events and clean-up work for our village. Responding to feedback from some residents, three Saturdays have been included to help increase opportunities for those who want to get involved. Just another reminder, a date in your diaries could be the 28th March, 10.00 am at the bus shelter for the next litter pick.

Contact Pete Madder-Smith on 896828.

OWL BOX CHECKING

Do you have an owl or raptor nest box that is not currently monitored? I am a BTO bird ringing trainer and assessor from Flixton, and I run a long-running Suffolk Farmland Bird Study, now in its 19th year. I also help train future ecologists and conservationists, working with UEA and the Suffolk Owl Sanctuary. Those I have trained are now working across all 8 continents, helping to study and protect some of the world’s rarest wildlife. If you would be willing for your nest boxes to be checked and to support this important opportunity, please get in touch at jcracknell@gmail.com.

HOMERSFIELD

Well, ‘February Fill Dyke’ certainly lived up to its name! But we welcome some warmth and sunshine. The snowdrops in Church Wood were a beautiful sight and now the daffodils are making a proud stand. 15 young oak trees have been planted and some native bluebells.

There will be a quiz, organized by Tom Holdridge, in aid of the Church at St. Margarets Village Hall on 9th May. £8 Refreshments, bring your Own Drinks at 7.30 pm.

Unfortunately it has been deemed necessary to install a security camera in the Church porch. So many items are disappearing with no donations left in the box. Many kind people donate books and bric-a-brac items to help us keep the Church afloat and it is an affront to them. The next service will be Evening Prayer on 22nd March at 4 p.m. All welcome.

It has been mentioned that dog poo bags (filled) are being left around the village, on the edge of paths and hung in bushes. They are not as attractive as baubles on a Christmas tree so please put them in the bin.

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Church Services

Rev Leon Collyer 01986 781345

| | | | |
|----------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 22/03/26 | Holy Communion Evening Prayer | 10.00am 4.00pm | Flixton Homersfield |
| 29/03/26 | Holy Communion Evening Prayer | 10.00am 5.00pm | St James Rumburgh |
| 05/04/26 | Holy Communion Evening Prayer | 10.00am 5.00pm | St Margaret SE St Michael |
| 12/04/26 | Holy Communion Evening Prayer | 10.00am 5.00pm | St Lawrence Ilk St Margaret |
| 19/04/26 | Holy Communion Evening Prayer | 10.00am 5.00pm | St Peter Ilk St John |
| 26/04/26 | Holy Communion Special Service | 10.00am 5.00pm | Flixton St Cross |
| 03/05/26 | Holy Communion Evening Prayer | 10.00am 5.00pm | Rumburgh Homersfield |
| 10/05/26 | Holy Communion Evening Prayer | 10.00am 5.00pm | St Michael St James |
| 17/05/26 | Holy Communion Evening Prayer | 10.00am 5.00pm | Ilk St Margaret St Margaret SE |
| 24/05/26 | Holy Communion Evening Prayer | 10.00am 5.00pm | Ilk St John St Lawrence |

My Quiet Sunday Afternoon

On Sunday everything outside was a bit of a haze,
It was brought to my attention that my chimney was ablaze!

It didn't seem to get better and smoke filled the air
Much to the amusement of everyone else in The Square.

I had no other option than to ring 999
And explain my predicament to the kind 'help line'

In no time at all a smart red fire engine appeared
Flashing lights, sirens, no expense spared.

Men, tools and equipment were everywhere,

Most women's dreams but this was a nightmare!

It was interesting to watch, so calm and organised,

There was even one in the attic I hadn't realised.

If I'd have known that, I may have taken the ladder away

And stored him up there for another day!

But joking aside, they were really nice blokes,

They'll always be my heroes, not all heroes wear cloaks.

Sally Remblance

SOUTH ELMHAM & DISTRICT HISTORY GROUP

All talks are at 7.30pm in South Elmham St Margaret's Village Hall. No booking required. £3 for non-members. Refreshments available. All Welcome.

26 March The Halesworth History Map

Simon Parker and Kevin Wooldridge on digital mapping and Halesworth's past.

30 April Stone Age South Elmham

Rob Walpole on local flint finds and our Stone Age history.

28 May Tea for the British, with a little twist of Suffolk

Miriam Stead on Suffolk's surprising link to Britain's tea trade.

More information: suffolkjude@gmail.com or see our Facebook page.

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Wednesday 11th March 2026 10:00-11:00

Wednesday 22nd April 2026 10:00-11:00

Homersfield contined....

There will be a village litter pick on 14th March. Meeting on The Green at 10a.m. please bring gloves. Equipment will be provided.

Our Parish Council would really welcome another councillor. Please get in touch via email with our parish clerk.

clerk@homersfield.p.c.gov.uk

ST PETER

As I write, the interminable rain has finally stopped, the grey skies have cracked open and we are enjoying some early spring sunshine. Daffodils are up, crowding out the snowdrops. Hawthorn is flowering. This year's eagerly anticipated crop of vegetables is in the propagators and some have already sprouted. Most of the residents of St Peter attended a specially-convened training session in the use of an AED and an introduction to CPR during February. This was held at St Peter's Hall. Since there is an AED at St Peter's Church, we all ought to know how to use it. We've since set up a local "Emergency" WhatsApp group, for use in the event that one of us keels over. We can message everyone on it in one go and can also make a WhatsApp call to the whole group at the same time. Hopefully one or more of us will be able to attend, before an ambulance eventually finds its way into the Saints. An informal litter pick around St Peter yielded a number of 'gems' in the local ditches: an old lawnmower, an almost-illegible 'Mud on road' sign (ironically obscured by mud), a reflector bollard and a Lib Dem election notice. Perhaps now we know why the Greens won, in this constituency. The local roads are resembling Swiss cheese. If you are fed up replacing tyres and suspension springs, you may like to try an app called FixMyStreet. It allows you to quickly photograph a pothole, enter a description and send it off into the ether. The app cleverly works out where you are and submits the report to the appropriate local authority. You'll probably receive an email from the council stating that they already know about the pothole and it's 'on their list'. Still, one shouldn't assume. I'm still waiting for a message to say they've fixed those I've reported. We celebrated Mark C's 65th birthday in late February. Many happy returns young man. It was somewhat disconcerting to see a team of people setting up what looked like a small oil well, by the 'S' bends between St Peter's Brewery and St Margaret's Road. I think they were taking a core sample.

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Jenni Baker

St Peter continued...

There is concern that this has something to do with the long-planned North Suffolk Winter Storage Reservoir. This is likely to have a large footprint on the landscape, if it is to hold the planned 30 billion litres of water. That's enough to cover the whole of the country of Monaco to the depth of 50 feet. The construction project is likely to be substantial and last for more than a year. Needless to say, this won't help the pothole situation, nor the peace and quiet of The Saints. Four potential sites have apparently been identified but the locations are being kept under wraps for "security reasons". There should be an announcement of the final choice by the summer. We are keeping our fingers crossed. If anyone has information about the project, that they can share, please send it on email to jezdonaldson@gmail.com.

ST JAMES CHURCH NEWS

The churchyard looks beautiful with its spring flowers at the moment and you will find church services order posted up in the porch for your information. The PCC wishes to extend grateful thanks to the team of people who have been opening up and closing the church, as well as those looking after the interior and keeping the churchyard in such good order. Watch this space for details of the return of the talented Lizzie with her music concert in July. We will be on her planned cycle route as she goes from a venue in Colchester on her way to perform in Norwich. She will be performing concerts all along her way.

HALL AND VILLAGE NEWS

There are two hall events to report - firstly the Pub Games evening held on January 24th. This was a different format for us and it proved very popular with adults and youngsters alike. Everyone was able to try their favourite board or card games, as well as trying some which were completely new to them.

The "Bar Food" went down very well with drinks of choice. All included in the ticket. We have already had requests for a repeat next year!

On February 28th, this was followed by the Curry Night, where everyone brought a suitable contribution to the food, which resulted in a wonderful evening, with the hall beautifully decorated and illuminated to create the right atmosphere.

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ST James continued...

Our thanks to all who came to one or both of these events and especially to those who helped with everything to do with the lovely decoration of the hall.

To look forward to:

March 28th Paddy's Legs band return to the hall. As before, this promises to be a great evening of music to dance or just listen to. Cost £10 pp, to include baked potatoes and welcome drink. BYO extra drinks.

Great raffle and doors open 7.45 for 8pm start.

Contact Ruth or Dave to book, either on village WhatsApp or call 07765790214 or 07778204113.

13th April The next Crafternoon will be on Mosaic tile making. 2pm – 4.30 pm. Always very popular so call Ruth on 07765790214. Regrettably, funding has been withdrawn from the Monday morning music sessions, so these are now at an end. Thanks to all who attended. We hope you enjoyed them and may have been inspired to explore more music.

April 8th AGM: The Hall AGM will be held on April 8th at 6.30 pm. Come and hear our plans for improvements and future events. Give us your ideas of what you would like to see offered as events and if you would like to join us on the committee, please let one of the committee know, through WhatsApp or in person, a couple of weeks beforehand. Wine and nibbles will be served.

You may notice that the hall has been given a fresh coat of paint throughout, so come and admire. **Open Garden at the Laburnums**

It was another very successful opening in February this year in aid of St Elisabeth Hospice and the village hall. Despite all the rain, the weather was kind to us on the day, although the Green could not be used for extra parking due to ground conditions. However, although hectic, visitors managed to park.

9th May The next Open Day will be on Saturday 9th May, at the Laburnums, this time in aid of the Pear Tee Fund, another very local important facility to those needing help. Full details will be advertised locally nearer the date. All enquiries, please contact Jane on 01986782413.



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Across Suffolk, hundreds of children and young people need safe, nurturing homes where they can grow, thrive and feel secure. At the end of March 2024, there were 930 children in care in Suffolk, a number that has steadily increased over recent years, reflecting real and pressing need in our communities.

These children come into care for many reasons — from family breakdown, neglect, or abuse to situations where their birth families can no longer provide the support they need. For many, foster carers are the life-line that offers stability, encouragement and a sense of belonging at a time when they need it most.

Yet there simply aren't enough foster carers. There is a need for foster carers to support children of all ages, especially sibling groups, teenagers and parent and child arrangements. Nexus Fostering provides full training and dedicated support to help carers succeed in helping create positive outcomes.

Becoming a foster carer isn't about having a perfect background — it's about offering patience, compassion, and a safe home. Carers can be single, rent their home, and you don't have to have had your own children before, what matters most is a commitment to making a positive impact on a child's life. If you've ever thought about fostering, now is the time to act. Every child deserves a home where they can feel valued, supported and safe and you could be the person who helps them get there.

Get in touch Call: 0800 389 0143 Email: foster@nexusfostering.co.uk

Visit: www.nexusfostering.co.uk to find out more or start your journey today. Together, we can help give Suffolk's children the futures they deserve.

HELP KEEP AN OLDER PERSON SAFER IN 2026

Did you know? While cold calling itself is allowed, traders must respect "No Cold Callers" notices - it's actually against the law if they don't! As a dedicated home care provider since 1980, we've made it our mission to help protect older and disabled people in our community. We're proud to have distributed over 250,000 of these protective stickers since 2019. Do you know of someone who would like to receive one of these? If so, simply reply to this email or call us on 01603 764567. Rest assured, we keep privacy in mind - we don't store any personal information or share it with others. If you have a Newsletter, Magazine or FB page and would like to mention this offer, we are happy for you to do so.

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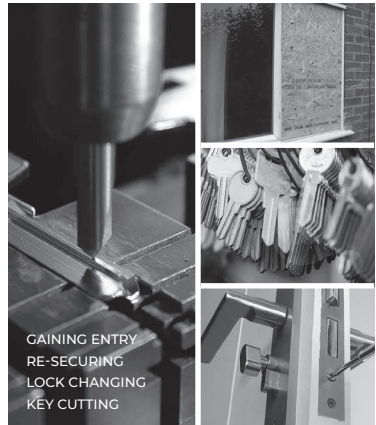
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SUFFOLK OPEN STUDIES

Suffolk Open Studios will launch their art trail 2026 with an exhibition of multiple local artists. This will be in the lovely setting of Holton Lodge Barn Gallery in Halesworth. This will take place May 13th - May 26th. The art trail for Suffolk Open Studios will then take place over weekends throughout June where many studios, including South Elmham villages, will be taking part. More info on suffolkopenstudios.org and brochures around the area.

Harleston and Waveney Art Trail (HWAT) members will be opening their studios for the 22nd successive year. These will be the weekends May 16/17 and Bank Holiday weekend 23-25th May 10-5pm.

In St Cross there will be 2 studios open - Denise Ann, (abstract painting and works) Hall Farm Cottages Hall Lane and Lin Paterson (Textiles and works) at Home Farm Barns, New Road.

More info on hwat.org.uk and brochures will also be available around the area as well as from Denise at 1 Hall Farm Cottage, St Cross - any questions contact Denise 07411452899

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EVENTS FOR 2026

Sunday 5th April ----- Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday 24th May ----- 40s Themed Day
Sunday 14th June ----- Suffolk Vehicle Enthusiasts Club

New for 2026 Opening on Selected Fridays

3rd & 10th April ~~~ 31st July ~~~ 7th,14th,21st & 28th August

Some events will have flypasts depending on weather and serviceability.

Admission Charges for 2026

Adult £10.00 | Child 5-17 £5.00 | Family Ticket £20.00 (2 adults and 3 children)

Please see our website for full details

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Contact Details inside front cover



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