



**PHILLIP BURTON FROM EAST ANGLIAN AIR AMBULANCE
TALKING TO ST MARGARET RESIDENTS ABOUT
CPR AND DEFIBRILLATORS**

SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

ISSUE No. 168

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2026

HOMERSFIELD	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE 8TH NOV
ST MARGARET S.E FLIXTON	HALLOWEEN PARTY 31ST OCT GET TOGETHER 4TH OCT

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SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

October - November 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 NOVEMBER 7TH

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

EDITORIAL

Nothing stays the same, a fact learnt at the recent Defibrillator and CPR evening with Air Ambulance's Phillip Burton, on CPR. The latest method of CPR is to keep doing compressions, don't stop to give breaths which practice was frowned on doing Corvid, but research now proves that constant compressions keeps the blood pressure up supplying the brain, stopping to give breaths drops the blood pressure and could result in brain damage.

GPC

The Grouped Parish Council of Flixton, St Cross and St Margaret South Elmham met at St Margaret S.E village hall on Monday 13th July. Cllr Warne reported he was organising a CPR and Defibrillator evening and was waiting confirmation. Highways response regarding 2 sisters' traffic was that Church

GPC continued...

Road route currently makes the most sense, a bypass would be preferable, but funding for this is unlikely and would have to be funded privately.

There have been no road safety issues on the current route. It was agreed to repair the Flixton Bus shelter, payment was approved.

Next Meeting 9th Sept. Barn at South Elmham Hall

VanESSA

East Suffolk Council is introducing a mobile advice service to rural villages in East Suffolk using a van, VanESSA, staffed by a Citizens Advice East Suffolk adviser. Partner organisations will also be invited to join the service. The service plans to start in late September/early October.

In addition to an adviser and useful information VanESSA will have a SISU machine onboard. This is a digital health kiosk that measures key vital signs and lifestyle risk factors in under five minutes without needing clinical staff

MOLE

Good tidings, St Margaret ILK residents Val and Rob got married at St Margaret ILK church, with the St Margarets Hand ringers ringing the bride down the aisle and also ringing the happy couple out again. St Margaret S.E resident Chris Sadler married Lisa at Bradfield Compost with the reception at the Swan at Lavenham, where it turns out that apart from many historical characters have stayed, so had Dolly Parton. Congratulations to all. Also congratulations to Austin Remblance on passing his Driving theory exam. The Garden party at Redhouse Farm attracted more people than last year to enjoy the rich culinary delights spread out before them, a warm sunny afternoon. A lone Spitfire came close, but unlike at a previous party it didn't pass over. Jenni Baker and dog had a collision resulting in Jenni breaking a bone, but now she is scamping about at nearly normal speed, the dog however was unscathed in this. Wasps decided to take over a grave in the churchyard and grew hostile when family members came to pay their respects, David Pipe was soon there to put an end to their hostile actions. A defibrillator and CPR evening with Phillip Burton from East Anglian Air Ambulance was very educational, dispelling many myths about the treatments and apparatus. At St Cross, sadly Ann Hill has passed away, a lovely lady well known among the Pink Ladies and would have been delighted to know that they raised £129,000

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Mole continued...

this year. The St Margarets village hall furniture container was broken into, nothing was taken, it only contains chairs, however the same night they had tools from Rumburgh village hall and a lawn mower from Spexhall village hall.

FROM THE TRACTOR CAB

What a time, drought, heatwaves and a wind to dry everything and drive fires. Tinder dry, we were lucky, many places including Dunwich had devastating fires, just another show of nature's power. Not a good time for many in the animal kingdom as they like us need water and with low river and pond levels, and in many cases dried up altogether. The Beck has not run for several months, so I suppose many of the birds such as the kingfisher and heron have moved to lakes or rivers to feed. Deer appear to stay near ponds with water in as do many others, it's like a water hole in Africa. The swifts and swallows seem to have left on their way back to Africa with just a few house martins left. The seasons appear to be earlier every year, blackberries and damsons are ready, these and many others were autumn fruits not late August. The drought also caused the cattle to be housed as there was no grass to eat, the other problem was there was no moisture in the ground so the cattle could walk through electric fences as they were not earthed (a problem suffered in 1976). However, on a brighter note, a Barn owl was spotted at St Cross this once familiar sight has not been seen for several years.

ST MARGARET DIARY at Village Hall unless stated otherwise

Sun 20th SEPT	HARVEST LUNCH 12.00- 12.30 To book 07974126902 £12 BRING YOUR OWN DRINK
Fri 16th Oct	FILM NIGHT, SONG SONG BLUE Doors 19:15 for 19:30 start Entry £5 BYO nibbles and drink.
Sat 17th Oct	LITTER PICK meet at the Village Hall 2pm
Sun 18th OCT	BREAKFAST IN THE Hall 10-12 All welcome
Sun 25th Oct	AFTERNOON TEA 12-2pm in AID OF BREAST CANCER £10 per person wear pink
Fri 30th Oct	QUIZ, 7.30, Teams of 6, refreshments, BYO drink £8 to book 07974126902, raffle
Sat 31th Oct	HALLOWEEN PARTY 6pm, games, soup, scary sights, Pumpkin carving. Adults £5 children under 13 FREE

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St Margerets continued...

Fri 13th Nov BINGO, Cash prizes, 7.30pm, £7 Bring your own
Drink and Nibbles. CASH ONLY. raffle

Sat /Sun 26&27th Nov ALL THINGS FESTIVE at the CHURCH

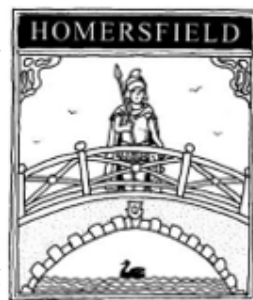
Sun 13th Dec Christmas lunch 12.00 for 12.30

HOMERSFIELD

At last we've had some rain! The wood was beginning to look like Autumn with all the trees shedding their leaves. The lawns looking like straw! There was a Pet Service in the churchyard 23rd August and many dogs were blessed by The Rev. Sam Lee. Unfortunately, mine had to watch through the gate as she would have caused chaos, she has no manners! Richard and friends brought the guide dogs, including two puppies. I was astounded to learn that the cost of training a guide dog to working level is over £10,000! The following Sunday there was a village picnic in the churchyard, enjoyed by all who came, lots of food, drink and laughter. The Black Swan held their fete on 1st August. Another brilliant day, delicious burgers, hot dogs, stalls and the infamous duck race not to mention the staggering amount of raffle prizes. Such a worthy cause Nelsons Journey. Thank you for your hard work.

WHAT'S ON IN HOMERSFIELD

Sun 27th Sept – Volunteer morning in Church Wood 10.00am-12.00pm (meet at the picnic bench in the wood). Pruning and clearing paths. Mark explains the tasks, so no prior knowledge is needed. You do not need to stay for the full two hours. All help is gratefully received. Bring hand tools if you have them. Please wear gloves, suitable clothing and strong footwear.



Sun 4th Oct - Harvest Festival in St Mary's Church at 5pm.

Saturday 17th October - Village litter pick. Meet on the Green at 10am.

Please wear gloves. Litter pickers, bags and hoops are provided. The more people we have – the tidier our village will be!

Sun 25th Oct – Volunteer morning in Church Wood 10.00am-12.00pm

Sun 8th Nov – Benefice Remembrance Service in St Mary's Church at 10am. Refreshments.



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Homersfield continued...

Tue 17th Nov – Parish Council Meeting - 6pm at the Black Swan. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting.

Sun 29th Nov - Volunteer morning in Church Wood 10.00am-12.00pm

Thank you to everyone who contacted me about the buses – our response has now been submitted to Adrian Ramsay.

ST CROSS

ANN HILL

Sadly, I have to report the passing of Ann on Tuesday 18th August.

Ann and David moved to The Old Post Office in the village and poured their energy into renovating the cottage. Ann had a talent for choosing colours and decor that created a lovely home. Her talent extended to the garden and the beautiful flower display at the front of the house is always a point of comment. She and David worked as a strong team. They and their family were keen supporters of the Pink Ladies Tractor run and Ann was usually seen leading off the 'family' team in beautifully decorated tractors and raising significant sums of money for breast cancer research.

It is a real testament to a person when whoever one speaks to says of Ann what a lovely, kind lady. We will all remember her as just that.

The family were exemplary in their care of Ann during her final illness, and she died peacefully at home surrounded by those she loved.

AERONAUTICAL BOOKLETS

DITCHINGHAM MALTINGS 'THE WALL OF FRIENDSHIP' history of the Maltings (silk works) mainly when it was a USAAF Quartermasters depot in WW11. Memories of Americans and local people, marriages and G.I brides. 43 pages, 53 photos. £8 +£2 p&p

MOUSEHOLD HEATH AERODROME. History of pioneer airmen, Royal Flying Corp, RAF and flying club. Norwich airport, Bolton & Paul aircraft, wartime use and bombing raids, Air displays and Royal helicopters. 28 pages 12 photos. £7 + £2 p&p

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ST PETER

As I type, we have just witnessed the first significant rain in two months and an evening of spectacular thunderstorms. The yellowed grass has begun to show patches of green. Daytime temperatures have fallen to the low 20s, more characteristic of this time of year. Is this the new normal for Suffolk summers? While we recognise the implications for the planet and for local people, farms and the wildlife, there is also something rather wonderful about being able to sit outside late into the evening, with temperatures more akin to Greece than to the UK.

The hot, dry weather has also meant far fewer flies and mosquitos than is usual, which, for us at least, has led to a much smaller crop of new swallows than we have become accustomed to. The arrival of our swallows very much signifies the beginning of summer for me, so I do hope that our residents survive in sufficient numbers to return here in future years.

The wildfires across the country and particularly at Dunwich reminded us all of how vulnerable we all are to extreme weather. Sitting here in the middle of a large expanse of arable fields does stir a little anxiety, given some of the devastating scenes that have been seen on TV of late.

Worries about an enormous reservoir in our neighbourhood seem to have passed, with a declaration of the preferred sites being Sibton Green and Brome. There may be a new pipeline nearby but hopefully that will not prove troublesome.

The annual Boules tournament in July was another success, raising £1,071 towards the maintenance of St Peter's Church. The weather stayed fine and warm and much fun was had. Many thanks to everyone that helped to make it such a great day.

St Peter's annual village barbecue was once again hosted by Tim & Carol. Again, the weather was good and it was a very sociable evening with lots of excellent food. David and Linda provided entertainment in the form of a creative selection of garden games. Many thanks to them and to everyone that provided a culinary contribution.

The 49 Club was won in July by the church and in August by Clodagh. Remember, if you aren't in, you can't win... contact Pamela to get your numbers.



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Church Services

Rev Leon Collyer 01986 781345

20/09/26	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Peter
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	St John
27/09/26	Holy Communion	10.00am	Flixton
	Evening Prayer	5.00pm	St Cross
04/10/26	Holy Communion	10.00am	Rumburgh
	Evening Prayer Harvest	5.00pm	Homersfield
11/10/26	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Michael
	Evening Prayer Harvest	5.00pm	St James
18/10/26	Holy Communion	10.00am	Ilk St Margaret
	Special Communion Harvest Festival	4.00pm	St Margaret SE
25/10/26	Holy Communion	10.00am	Ilk ST John
	Evening Prayer	4.00pm	St Lawrence
01/11/26	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Cross
	Evening Prayer	4.00pm	St Peter
08/11/26	Remembrance Sunday		
	Holy Communion	10.00am	Homersfield
15/11/26	Evening Prayer	4.00pm	Flixton
	Holy Communion	10.00am	St James
22/11/26	Evening Prayer	4.00pm	Rumburgh
	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Margaret SE
29/11/26	Evening Prayer	4.00pm	St Michael
	Holy Communion	10.00am	St Lawrence
	Evening Prayer Advent Carols	4.00pm	Ilk St Margaret



Remembering the Fallen



As we pause to remember the brave men and women from our local communities who gave their lives in the service of their country, we would like to remind you that more information about the fallen from our area can be found on the Homersfield or Three Saints Parish Councils' websites.

You can view details of those who lost their lives from the following villages:

All Saints & St Nicholas, South Elmham
Flixton
Homersfield
Ilketshall St John
Ilketshall St Lawrence
Ilketshall St Margaret
Rumburgh
St Cross, South Elmham
St James, South Elmham
St Margaret, South Elmham
St Michael, South Elmham
St Peter, South Elmham

Please visit the Homersfield or Three Saints Parish Councils' websites to find out more and help us keep their memory alive.

<https://homersfield-pc.gov.uk>

&

<https://threesaints-pc.gov.uk>



FLIXTON

BINS, BUDGETS & BOVINE MANURE

The June change to household waste collection services came as a result of Government generated requirements mainly concerning food waste. It might be loosely described as a “strategic change” for any council having to implement it. For East Suffolk District Council it was obviously always going to be a problem, so the required start date of 31st March was missed and ESDC chose 3rd June to begin their new system. “Begin” was probably just their wish rather than intention as the 3rd June was really just the start of a very serious health hazard during extremely hot weather.

When any significant change is intended by a large organisation, a project owner is normally nominated and temporary, additional resources are applied to ensure success. It seems that using this long trusted method either didn't occur to either the ESDC's Director of Strategy salary £122,737 or to his direct report, Director of Environmental Services, salary £108,199.

We weren't getting any food waste collections and tried calling ESDC's “help”-line but the queueing time was ridiculous. By 8th of July, I decided to wait on the line and after a yawningly long period I got through and reported the issue. The following week, still no collection so I called again. After just over 44 minutes I managed to speak to a human who appeared to be working from home. I asked for clarification on that subject and was told that it didn't matter where the council representative was, as long as I was being given the service I had called for. She then told me that she would log the complaint of no bin collection. So, 44 minutes plus the lengthy call cost for her to just email someone says, very clearly, that she wasn't providing any useful service for my council tax expenditure.

During all of this over 3 month long strategic failure and continuing health hazard, East Suffolk Council was adept at moving its own targets. They aim to respond within 5 working days, but due to the number of complaints, they changed their target to 10 working days and due to the number of complaints they changed their target to 20 working days. So, from the date they chose to record my complaint (a week after I complained over the phone), they took 35 working days.

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Flixton continued...

“Aim to respond” may be right... their aim is just a tad off the target. When they did actually respond, they assumed my problem was resolved as the bin had been collected twice in 14 weeks!

When I called an East Suffolk Services number and spoke (within 34 seconds) to a lady in their office she then apologised for putting my call on hold... while she dealt with the problem. And she did, she took action to resolve the issue. So, one subcontractor can sort the issue within around 5 minutes. ESDC take over 35 working days (remember they don't count all those weekends, around another 14 days).

In the meantime, the Director of Strategy (!?) and his direct report Director of Environmental Services (!?) will continue to enjoy over £230,000 of your council tax payments each year. I expect the major requirement for their jobs is to have no shame.

FLIXTON'S “FRIEND”

Come to Flixton on a quiet Sunday, at the right time of day and you'd think you've come to a typical, quiet Suffolk “backwater” where you can sit out in the warm weather and enjoy a glass of wine and a good novel. More about the novel later.

Live anywhere along Church Road or The Street at most times during the working day OR night and you could also believe you've entered some parallel world where you're being punished by some celestial being for a crime you're not aware of.

We welcome new residents into our community only to find that they want to leave because they can't endure the punishment this village has become used to. And thereby hangs the issue... we have wearily accepted the intolerable and stupidly, we consider it normal.

We can light heartedly accept the report about an “angry man with a scythe” at our annual parish meeting... but we don't challenge the very people who cause the dangerous problem. The local poultry plant labours under the misapprehension it is a “good neighbour” something resoundingly rejected by so many in the village. There is no concern shown over their lorries constantly mounting the curb and using the footpath as their HGV route. Clearly, the view of the company is that efficient and cost-effective production can only come at the cost of destroying the heart of a village and that point could be right. After all, they've succeeded for so many years... and our community has chosen to accept their intimidation.

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Jenni Baker

Flixton continued...

VILLAGE GET TOGETHERS

The latest “get together” at the Village Hall included a carpet bowls session which brought to the event skills probably learned on Limousin Petanque pitches. Whilst carpet wear was minimal



some of the chat at the nearby tables occasionally became a little nervous, as the bowling balls drifted “off piste” (that’s not a reference to the amount of alcohol being consumed). If they just made the bowling balls spherical, I’m sure the game would improve.

There are two more currently planned, Saturday October 24th at 4pm and there’s indoor curling (do we bring own brooms?). Then Saturday, November 8th at 4pm. Don’t forget to bring your own drink and some food to share. Again, well done to Jo Beard (ably assisted by Simon) for getting people together.

DONALD TRUMP AND THE BUS TO NORWICH

I wish Flixton had this problem, but we’d need a bus service in order to get any cuts. How did it get to this. The X41 has virtually disappeared from the FirstBus daytime schedule and the 41 now only runs about hourly. You can get another bus to Norwich from Bungay, but you have to change in Beccles.

Worse still, the changes weren’t communicated to any relevant local authorities before they began and the old timetables were left in place, adding to the confusion and upset for travellers.

Could it be that the changes happened in preparation for the planned £2 price cap in early ‘27. After all, a bus needs to be pretty full in order for bus companies to keep routes viable, if they can’t charge what they want. Or is it just another effect of a Middle Eastern war which needn’t have happened? Well done Donald.

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Flixton continued...

FIFTY SHADES OF MUSHROOMS

I said earlier that we'd get back to the novel. It appears that someone in the village has begun writing a novel. There are a few minor aspects missing, like a plot, a build-up, key players and an outcome. But two fairly lengthy chapters covering the sex have been completed in detail and are ready for print.

If anyone is able to help with the other few bits, let me know and I'll pass on your contributions.

100 CLUB Winners for August

1st Philip Kidner

2nd. Rowan Hunt

3rd. Jo Beard

ST JAMES

CHURCH NEWS

On a lovely late summer Sunday, 6th September, a good number enjoyed a concert of baroque music in the church by the classical trio Ebb'und Fluth from Norfolk, followed by refreshments in the churchyard.

Thanks to all who helped with organising the event, including decorating the church with fresh greenery, producing tempting cakes and donating raffle prizes.

Thanks to the musicians who generously gave their time and all proceeds went towards church funds.

Oct 11th Harvest Service at St James church at 5pm. Come and celebrate the harvest with us and join us for refreshments afterwards.

HALL AND VILLAGE

Summer Lunch was a successful day with a good turnout of village families and friends. Thanks to all who helped with setting up (and dismantling) of tents, preparing food, organising raffle, games and much more.

The hall committee could not organise this event without the input of so many willing helpers.

Predictably, the sun, which shone every day throughout the summer bar this one, refused to appear but spirits remained high and a good time was had by all. The Picnic in the orchard was called off at the last minute due to



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St James continued...

predicted heavy rain. However, of course, that afternoon out came the sun... This is Britain after all!

FUTURE EVENTS

Sat 3rd Oct SOUL ALLIANCE. The popular band returns once again to St James for a lively evening of music to listen or dance to. 7.30pm start, £8pp to include a welcome drink and snacks. BYO extra drinks. There will also be a great raffle. Call Lynda on 01986782582, use village WhatsApp, or pay at the door. Cash if possible, please.

Sat 17th Oct QUIZ NIGHT. Bring your friends to make up a team of up to 6 (we can put you with others if you don't have a team). £8pp to include pizza and there will be a great raffle. 7.15 for 7.30 pm prompt start. To book (essential) call Caroline on 01986782545, Lynda as above, or through the village WhatsApp.

14th & 15th Nov

PHOTO COMPETITION WITH ARTS & CRAFTS EXHIBITION

A reminder that there is still time to take photos and be ready to enter them into the competition. The hall will be open to display them and judging will take place on the Sunday. The popular Arts and Crafts exhibition will run at the same time and as last year, many pieces will be for sale. There will be refreshments available. Time: 10am – 4pm.

Sun 13th Dec CHRISTMAS LUNCH. This event is usually very popular, so we are opening booking from now. (no, I don't want to think about it this early either!) Last year, sadly, we had to tell latecomers that we could not squeeze in another table, so we are happy to put names on the list at any time onwards. If you then find you can't make it, just let us know. The cost will be £10 as usual to include all the customary Christmas fare, three courses and a glass of wine. Up to 12yrs free and 12-16s £5. To book, call Caroline or Lynda on numbers above or Ruth through the village WhatsApp.

We hope to see you at one, if not all, of the village events still to come in 2026.

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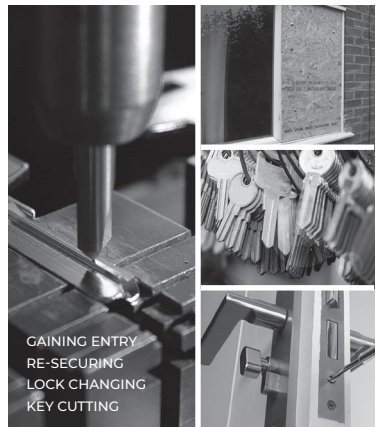
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SOUTH ELMHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

South Elmham & District Local History Group

St Margaret's Village Hall, IP20 0PJ (///emotional.envoy.secret)

All talks 7.30pm. No booking required. Refreshments available.

Thu 24 Sep Tea for the British in Suffolk with Miriam Stead

Think tea is a London story? Miriam Stead traces Suffolk's part in the global trade, from smugglers on the coast to Felixstowe's role as Britain's teapot today.

Thu 29 Octo Suffolk at the Time of the Plague with Pip Wright

Three centuries after the Black Death, plague came back. Pip Wright looks at what happened to Ipswich in 1665: who died, who fled, and who stayed to bury the dead.

Thu 26 Nov The Manorial Earthworks at Linstead Parva with Ben Hozier

Two medieval moats lie side by side in the fields at Linstead, ringed by ponds, banks and the humps of a settlement that quietly emptied. East Anglia has more moats than anywhere else in the country, and few were ever about defence. A wide sheet of water round your hall told the neighbours exactly who you were.

Admission: £3 for non-members in September, rising to £5 from October.

This is our first increase in several years and one that rising costs have made unavoidable.

Funny Quotes by Famous People

“When I met Mr. Right I had no idea his first name was Always”

“If you think no one cares about you, try missing a couple of payments”

“I haven't spoken to my wife for years, I didn't want to interrupt her”

“When I was a boy The Dead Sea was only sick”

“As a child, my family's menu consisted of two choices, take it or leave it”

“Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter”

“I like long walks, especially if they're taken by people who annoy me”

“You know you've reached middle age when you're cautioned to slow down
by your doctor, instead of the police.”

Sally

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