



SPRING IS COMING

SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

ISSUE No. 241

APRIL - MAY 2024

**FLIXTON CROSSING SIGNS ON B1062
FINISHED NEW MUSEUM PROJECT**

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SOUTH ELMHAM COMMUNITY NEWS

April - May 2024

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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

Thank you to all those people who write, advertise, correlate, donate and distribute this magazine, without these unsung and often invisible people 465 magazines, every 2 months for 242 editions would not have happened. Well done. On a personal note, a big thank you to the many people who rang, texted, emailed and visited me during a spell of being off colour. Including the paramedics in their electric car.

GPC WWW.ONEFLIXTON.ONESUFFOLK.NET

The GPC met at St Margaret S.E village hall on 8th January at 7.30.pm. Cllr Ffrench-Mullen recounted an incident when a taxi became stuck in a flood, to which an ambulance and two fire engines attended, it was agreed that better signage might reduce the amount of vehicles falling foul of this hazard.

GPC continued...

There was also flooding by the old Blacksmiths. County Cllr Cloke would visit these sites. In St Felix Rise, Flixton concerns were voiced about the state of the verges and resident parking. Cllr Warne advised the council, that the signs were up for the Flixton pedestrian crossing, on the B1062, thanks in part to a donation of £1,240 from Breedon Gravel company. He also said what a good job the residents had made of clearing out the culvert by St Marys Close. St Cross had a sinkhole, this was being reported to the relevant people.

Next meeting BATEMANS BARN 12th March at 7.30pm

VILLAGE ANNUAL MEETINGS. ALL WELCOME

ST MARGARET S.E	Monday APRIL 8th . 7.30pm	St Margaret Village Hall
CROSS	Tuesday APRIL 9th .7.30pm	Batemans Barn
FLIXTON	Tuesday April 16th . 7.30pm	Flixton Village Hall

MOLE

Well, it's all move in this edition. Thankfully, despite the rain, boats have not been needed. Down at Flixton after being involved in a prolonged chain, Sue Hall has moved to be near family and welcome to Tim and Jacky Howse, meanwhile up at St Margaret.S.E Lear and Leon have moved on and Matti has joined the community. In the same village Giles and Juliet have moved back to the coast and the De Rougements will be moving in. According to reports Tracey Page reached a significant milestone birthday, just a bit more than 21. It is with sadness that I write of the passing of Donnie Savage, although not from here, he married Rose, a resident of St Margaret S.E and church organist for many years. If Donny was visiting, he would always help, whether it was putting up a marquee, moving tables and chairs or just sweeping up, sympathies to the family. February's Fun Quiz at St Margaret S.E welcomed seven teams, it was a close result with Homernoids winning and Fungi and Troublemakers in equal 2nd just a couple of points behind. The Tabletop sale in the village hall, organised by Jannine, was a great success. At All Saints we wish Chris Bealings continuing recovery.

St MARGARET S.E CHURCH

Many thanks to the Blaxland family for a bequest that will allow an Altar cloth to be completed, a task that Cordelia started.



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FROM THE TRACTOR SEAT

Despite the heavy rains, the days are getting longer, things should improve. The ducks are paired up as are many other birds and animals, it's not just plants that spring means new growth to. It's still a bit early for our migrating visitors, such as swifts, swallows, turtle doves and cuckoos. Meanwhile the magpies and jays are looking for nests to rob or eat the young. They are quite capable of working a hedge clearing it as they go. This is the time of year that the hares will be seen 'boxing', which is all part of the mating game. The young are called leverets and are born ready to go, once a day, usually at sunset, they are to be fed by their mother, otherwise they receive no parental care in the first 4 weeks of their life, normal lifespan is about 4 years.

Whether the mild weather we have been experiencing will mean the migrating birds will come earlier is something we will have to wait and see. Several plants are muddled as we have not had a cold spell, to prompt their systems to activate. Some are in bud too early. We can still have a sharp frost even snow, as the saying goes 'nae cast a clout before May is out', which has several translations one is 'don't take your vest off before May'.

St MARGARET DIARY

Sat 16th March	Jumble sale, 11- 2 pm Village Hall tea, cakes refreshments
Sat 23rd March	Litter Pick, 2.30pm Meet at the Village Hall
Fri 29th March	Easter Trail, 11-2pm, Start At the Village Hall.
Tea's, etc.	
Mon 8th April	St Margaret Annual Village Meeting, 7.30pm Village Hall. ALL WELCOME
Mon 22nd April	St Margaret Village Hall AGM, 7.30pm, ALL WELCOME
Tue 23rd April	Church Annual meeting. JOINT BENEFICE at ST JAMES Village Hall
Tue 14th May	GPC AGM, 7.30pm, Flixton Village Hall,
Fri 21st June	Countryside Evening Beck Valley, 6-8pm
Sun 23rd June	Classic Vehicle show, 10-4pm, Beck Valley
Sat 13th July	Flower and Produce Show, St Margaret Village Hall
Sat 20th July	Village BBQ 6pm, on the Green



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Sun 25th August	Garden Party, 2-4pm, Redhouse Farm
Sun 22nd September	Harvest Lunch, St Margaret S.E Village Hall
Sat 30th Nov	Christmas Tree festival Church
Sun 1st Dec	Christmas Tree festival Church
Sun 8th Dec	Christmas lunch

COUNTRYSIDE EVENING

Brought forward to 21st June, come and enjoy the events and cuisine in the Beck Valley (IP20 0PJ), between 6-8pm

CLASSIC VEHICLE SHOW

Sunday 23rd June, 10-4pm come and visit bar, BBQ, stalls, cars, tractors, motorbikes and more in the Beck valley IP20 0PJ

HOMERSFIELD

The daffodils planted around the village have made a nice display, although we're still surrounded by water! The churchyard has been much improved by Keith, who completely cleared the enormous patch of brambles in the North-west corner.

Thank you Keith.

In February, a lucky number won £229.50 for a member of St. Mary's Church 59 Club. If you would like a number, it costs £5 a month, with half going to help pay the Church insurance and the other half as prizes. To join, contact Tom Holdridge (Church Treasurer) by phoning 01986788169 or emailing tomholdridgeth@gmail.com. You do not have to live in Homersfield to be a member.

Homersfield's Annual Parish Meeting is on Tuesday 28th May at 6p.m. at The Black Swan. All are welcome.

Sadly we have lost another long term resident of the village. Our sincere condolences to Jill. Mick was a familiar sight cutting The Green and the playground. He quietly volunteered for any jobs around the village. He was a very patient man, teaching Emma and I how to operate the Churchyard lawnmower. He will be greatly missed.

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Contact Details inside front cover

Michael Pellatt (Mick)

Jill Pellatt and her family would like to extend their thanks to everyone who took time out to attend the funeral of Michael Pellatt. It meant a lot to see so many of you there to say a final farewell to a much-loved husband, dad, grandad, friend and neighbour. Thank you all for your kind words and messages. Jill and Family

Raymond Bird

Ray and I have lived in Homersfield for many years. During that time, Ray helped with clearing gullies, raising funds for the playground, working in the wood, supporting village events, as well as all the usual household and garden jobs at home. Sadly, he died on Boxing Day 2023 and was cremated on the 19th of January.

There is an African saying 'It takes a village to raise a child'. Well, I believe it takes a village to look after someone with Alzheimer's. So, I would like to thank everyone who has helped in so many ways over the years of his illness especially when he was at home.

For example, those who pointed out to me where he had gone when he went 'walkabout'; those who saw him home when they spotted him out and about; those who picked us up when he led me onto a main road; and more generally everybody for being such very good neighbours. A big thank you to you all.

Debbie Bird

On Sunday 7th April there will be a free afternoon to try lawn bowling at Wortwell Bowls Club 2pm to 4pm. Come and have a go in flat shoes. Sarah

St PETERS

In the last edition I mentioned that the wet weather couldn't continue, but it has. Surely now it can't be too long before we get some drier and warmer weather.

We can now reveal that the date is now confirmed for the 10th running of our popular fun boules tournament, which restarted last year after a 3 year break. 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 and in the afternoon, teams play a knockout competition.

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St Peter continued...

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 or 01986 782296.

Excitement is beginning to mount as we approach the annual bric a brac stall outside St Peters Cottage, next to the church. This year's shopping frenzy will be on Saturday 25th May between 10am and 3pm. Early attendance is advised to avoid disappointment. All proceeds for St Peters Church. Pamela is happy to accept donations now so get rummaging.

The 49 club was won in February by the church as the number isn't issued and in March by Jez. Numbers are still available, please speak with Pamela.

By the time you read this we will have conducted our village litter pick. Well done to all who took part. It is a shame that it is necessary and it would be good if people could stop throwing litter from vehicles, but I do think there is less coming from McDonalds now.

This edition's wildlife watch is about buzzards. A deer was killed by a vehicle near the entrance to the Hall recently. It was impressive to watch 2 buzzards standing guard over the carcass keeping a variety of other birds at bay. Then a few days ago we saw 6 buzzards circling together over our garden, a sight we had never seen before. Unfortunately they didn't leave with a rabbit each out of the garden.

Good Friday 2024 Easter Trail

St Margaret South Elmham village hall (IP20 0PJ) from 11am, pick up your question sheet return by 2.00pm to enter the free draw for Easter eggs. Donation of £1 per question sheet/route map to go into church funds for repairs etc. Soup, Tea, Coffee and cakes will be available in the

Village Hall from 11am until 2.00pm.

We look forward to seeing you there.

St Cross

Thank goodness for daffodils, blossom and all our early spring flowers and growth. With so much rain and grey skies we've needed the spring colour to cheer us along.

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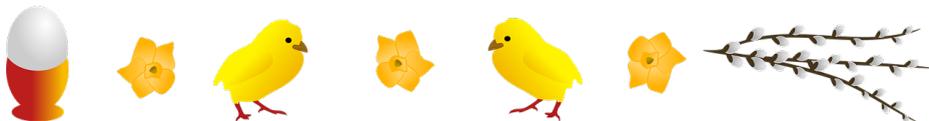
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Church Services

Rev Leon Collyer 01986 781345

17/03/24	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 4.00pm	Ilk St John Homersfield
24/03/24	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 4.00pm	St James St Margaret SE
31/03/24	Easter Sunday Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 5.00pm	St Lawrence St Cross
07/04/24	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 5.00pm	St Michael Ilk St Margaret
14/04/24	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 5.00pm	Flixton Rumburgh
21/04/24	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 5.00pm	Homersfield Ilk St John
28/04/24	St Margaret SE		
05/05/24	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 5.00pm	Ilk St Margaret St Peter
12/05/24	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00am 5.00pm	Rumburgh Flixton
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 Rumburgh



HARLESTON CHORAL SOCIETY

HCS will be returning after the Easter break (and a highly successful March Quiz Evening) on Monday 15 April, 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start, in The London Road Church, Harleston IP20 9BH. Since January we've been rehearsing Saint-Saëns Requiem and Dvořák Mass in D Major for our Summer Concert on 29 June 2024. It's never too late to join us, there are no auditions and music is provided free. Practices are on a Monday evening 7.30pm- 9.30pm and parking is available in The Original Factory Shop (TOFS), almost opposite the church.

Further information about the choir is on our website www.harlestonchoralsoc.org.uk or from Stella Brownsea at heidihouse@btinternet.com

SOUTH ELMHAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Are you interested in local history?

Our meetings are usually held on the last Thursday of every month at St Margaret South Elmham Village Hall, IP20 0PJ.

We are a friendly group and visitors are most welcome to our meetings. You don't have to be a member to attend, just turn up for the evening.

Visitors £3 on the door - Members £1 - Refreshments included

Thursday 28th March

John Rainer will talk about the use of Lidar to interpret the local landscape.

Thursday 25th April

'Scaffolds & Stage Devils' - by Kate Jewell

Thursday 30th May

'Walpole Old Chapel' by Miriam Stead

Thursday 27th June

AGM followed by - 'House detectives' by Stephen Poulter

ROADS AND FLOODS

The weather conditions have inevitably had consequences for the roads. Due to the saturated land and constantly high water levels in the Beck, the flooding on Sandy Lane has occurred after every period of sustained rain-fall. Suffolk County Council have closed the road during flooding in an attempt to reduce the number of vehicles becoming stranded in flood waters and the follow-on cost of emergency service call outs.

Drivers should be aware that if road closed signage is ignored and your vehicle is damaged, your insurance company is unlikely pay.

Parish councillors and David Hill met with representatives of Suffolk County Council Highways and the Environment Agency to discuss solutions to the flooding on the corner by The Blacksmith's Workshop. As a result of this meeting the necessary ditches will be cleared which will avoid this flooding recurring. It is anticipated that this work will be carried out in the next 3 months and may involve road closure or traffic management during the works.

David has done a lot of work to try to clear areas of flooding on our village roads and is due a big vote of thanks for all his efforts.

A further site meeting between concerned residents, Parish Councillors and County Councillor Judy Cloke took place to draw attention to the state of our roads in the village. The number of large potholes was discussed and also the encroachment of traffic, particularly farm vehicles onto the grass

verges. There are areas of grass verge in the village which have been transformed into churned mud. County Councillor Cloke has requested an assessment from Suffolk County Council Highway department.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th April at 7.30pm at Bateman's Barn, South Elmham Hall. Please come along if you wish to raise any issues or just want to be involved in your village.

Here's hoping the constant rainfall is now behind us and we can all enjoy the spring in the beautiful surroundings we are so lucky to live in.

FLIXTON

MEETING AT THE BUCK

Well, the meeting held at the Buck on the 15th February seemed to stir some interest, a credit to the enthusiasm of Lin Smith.

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Flixton continued...

The Adair Room was pretty full and it was great to see long standing residents, new residents, young residents and old come together to look at ways of improving our village through greater involvement. Although a fair degree of time was spent on problems with road water drainage, let's hope it's given more villagers a picture of what the issues are facing this community, how they are being handled and also how we might be able to improve things through local action.

We now have the prospect of getting some material and training support from Suffolk County Council by taking on a Community Self Help proposal. By now, there are nominations for safety training which should see us better equipped to tackle some of the problems our village faces. Thanks must go to Stewart Tilbury, Terry Hunt, Vanessa Wincup and Malcolm Mackinnon for volunteering. Luke has also offered his help, which has always been there when needed in the past.

Following on from the meeting Parish Council, Ken Warne, who attended, has taken on several individual aspects regarding road drainage which should help local action.

During the meeting, representatives of the newly commenced project to re-store and recover for public display the remaining buildings from RAF Bungay, our Flixton Air Base presented an outline plan for the future. Most will know RAF Bungay as the US airbase which operated large B24 Liberator bombers of the 446th Bomb Group in WW2. The representatives gave a brief talk on what they are hoping to achieve and also how many visitors the project may bring in to the local area. The primary site for their work is just behind Grange Farm. There will be follow-up meetings, the next one on 16th May, enabling us to develop a medium to long term plan. Clearly, there are many views on how our village could improve and to that end, Flixton residents should find a questionnaire with this copy of the Community News. Please take a few moments to help us build up a better picture of what might be worth tackling.

Key dates for now are 6th April, Litter Pick, all volunteers welcome. 16th April Annual Parish Meeting. On the 9th May, at the village hall, there is the chance to enjoy "sound bathing" aimed at relaxing our stressed bodies and minds. For more information go to saralouslyolutions.co.uk or contact Lin Smith on 07803838550 or linsmith@btinternet.com.

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Saturday 30th March Norfolk Mini Owners Club

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Sunday 7th April Norfolk Internal Combustion Engine Society

Sunday 5th May Rivers HOGs 40s Day



**Possible flypast for March 31st
if Weather & Serviceability Permits**



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Flixton continued....

100 Club The 100 Club is a local “lottery” system which helps fund the Village Hall by using set numbers to give you a chance of winning a “few bob” to treat yourself. There are a few numbers still available, so why not join.

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOR

It seems that the message didn't really get through, so the village now needs to take a stronger approach to ensure the culprit is dealt with. Allowing dogs, which you supposedly control, to foul the neighbourhood you live in shows complete contempt for the rest of the village. Obviously it's difficult for people to understand why one individual would behave in this way but when your life is so self-absorbed you're not going to change without being forced to. It's time for the village to ensure every available enforcement action is applied.

THE AVIATION MUSEUM & EAST COAST PIRATES EVENT

Over some years there have been issues with how the museum interacts with the village it has made it's home. Since we moved here in 1994, the village and the museum have coexisted pretty well and it was always a nice local place to visit when out for a walk or when we had the odd hour to go over and chat with the volunteers. We frequently donated things for them to sell in their hangar shop. That situation began to change when the museum came under new stewardship. It became, for us, a less welcoming place to be. I remember Philip Murray not enjoying a good working relationship with them. So, we rarely visit now.

Just after Christmas I sat with the museum manager and a local trustee at a meeting which the museum called to discuss things with Gary and Linda at the Buck. The meeting seemed to go ok, with Linda repeating her 2023 commitment to provide Easter Eggs for the museum's 2024 Easter Egg hunt. The East Coast Pirates Event was discussed, as it had caused so much disruption to the whole of Flixton in 2023. The view stated to the museum representatives was that events around and over pub land were welcome providing that the pub did not suffer financially and preferably, increased its takings on the day. A very reasonable position. I agreed to attend a meeting between the Museum and the East Coast Pirates representatives when they set a date. A meeting was arranged.

Sadly, the meeting didn't take place. A cancellation phone call came through from the museum manager, due to him “double booking”.



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Flixton continued...

Obviously, this wasn't the case and the next thing was a shock Facebook announcement by East Coast Pirates attacking the pub as the cause of them cancelling their event at Flixton. Many negative Facebook comments followed. People commenting didn't know the truth, they just believed the false statement in the post. Worse still, positive comments were deleted by the Group Administrator. Nowadays, the use of social media in this way can have a very bad effect on trade. When we looked back to 2018 East Coast Pirates did the same thing to Philip, playing an immature "game".

But East Coast Pirates clearly got their "wrong impression" from somewhere. The museum, which has more recently continued to approach the relationship with the pub and the village in a quite dismissive way. The museum receives the Community News, could have attended our 15th February meeting, just as other local businesses and projects did, but it chooses not to interact with the village. This doesn't help the village, the pub or the museum.

THE BUCK

Despite the Aviation Museum/East Coast Pirates issue, The Buck has been focusing on developing its menu to serve various recipes from around the world, recently offering a French Bistro theme.

The idea of small but more frequent Beer Festival Fun Days will hopefully seize the opportunity of benefitting from drier weather through this summer. Quiz nights will also continue to feature even as the nights draw out. Don't forget, they'll also do you a take-away which might just suit if you're passing through after a long day's toil. So remember... Don't pass The Buck!! Any feedback or news contact Pete Madder-Smith 01986 896828.

ST JAMES

CHURCH NEWS

Attendance at church services here in St. James is generally very disappointing. However, when it comes to care for the building, decorations for special services, hedge and grass cutting we are well catered for by many volunteers with a variety of skills and their help is much appreciated.

During the winter months we had two more groups to further enhance our churchyard.

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St James continued...

The first group straightened more than 50 leaning gravestones for safety reasons (with the aid of the free use of a small digger) and the second carried out a very neat, gentle trim to overgrown tree bases and overhanging branches. They call themselves the 'Z' team - no inflated egos there!

The number of helpers is too numerous to list but many thanks to you all.
Bernard Crockford (for St.James PCC)

HALL AND VILLAGE NEWS

Thanks to all who came along to the hall to discuss new ideas on the 24th January. It was quite a productive evening with several people coming forward to volunteer their services in various ways.

There were ideas for new events, as well as a discussion on our more regular ones. A working party was formed of volunteers to do practical work around the hall and they have already carried out some necessary tasks around the outside of the building.

It was decided that communicating by a Community WhatsApp might be a practical link for many and if you would like to join that in order to hear what is going on in the village, or to ask for or offer help, please contact Ruth Jewson on 07765790214.

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 01986782545. 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. Lastly, we are hoping to build a village website for St James. If you would like to help with this in any way, please contact Lynda on 01986782582.

HARLESTON & DISTRICT U3A - OUR MONTHLY TALK

Wednesday 17th April at 2.00 pm in St John's Church, Harleston IP20 9AZ will be given by Tania Harrison, on The Arnolfini Portrait and Other Marriages in Art. Tania describes herself as a 'Not too academic Art Historian!' and she will show how marriage has been represented in art over the centuries, including the use of symbols and hidden meanings in the paintings.

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RAINING AGAIN

Well, Spring is just about here,
Daffodils are blooming everywhere.
Is anyone else fed up with the rain?
When is the sun going to shine again?

We get one lovely day, hear a distant lawnmower roaring,
But before I can get mine out, guess what...it's pouring!

It's raining and the dog's waiting at the door,
So out come the boots and hat once more.
I know I'm a bit slow and a bit of an "oldie",
But much more of this and I'll start to go mouldy!
But, ever the optimist, I'm sure it'll get warmer,
And Spring is waiting just round the corner.

Sally REMBLANCE (HOMERSFIELD'S Pam Ayes)



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